

Thursday, May 18, 2017

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CITY IS ROCKED AS ARMY DETONATE A MASSIVE NAZI BOMB



BOOM! The biggest explosion in BOOM! The biggest explosion in years shook the West Midlands as a Second World War bomb was blown up – bringing an end to 30 hours of drama and horrendous traffic problems in Birmingham problems in Birmingham.

Roads in and out of city came to a halt as Bomb Squad experts carried out the con-trolled detonation close to the Aston Expressway on Tuesday.

An Army spokesman said the unexploded 550lb bomb was one of the largest ever found on British soil.

The blast could be heard for miles around A West Midlands Police drone captures the explosion

A West Midlands Police drone captures the explosion

A huge crater was left behind and experts spent hours checking the Expressway for structural damage. It followed a two-day drama that saw hundreds evacuated from their homes

within a 500 metre exclusion zone and thousands of motorists hit by chaos after a 13-mile stretch of the M6 was closed, as were many other roads around the bomb site. Rail services were also hit and sections of canal closed off.

Police warned of the detonation of the

Police warned of the detonation of the 550lb bomb an hour before it took place at 3.35pm. The army had created a 'sand bunker', bringing in sand on 13 trucks. This was as well as the 500-metre cordon, which resulted in the closure of the Expressway.

Reporter Marion Brennan was in a safe location nearby when the controlled explo-sion happened. She said: "The ground shook with the thunderous boom." A spokesman for the Army said: "The

condition of the bomb ruled out removing it to a safer place to detonate. The two fuses had badly corroded causing explosive material to leak. This left the soldiers with only

one option – a controlled explosion."
Sgt Paul Daniel of 721 Explosive Ordnance Disposal Squadron, 11 EOD Regiment RLC said: "It was the largest disposal

of a device in situ in recent history."
Luftwaffe air raids on Birmingham during the Second World War resulted in hundreds of deaths and mass destruction.

ACCIDENT Man dies after car oveturns in crash

A 28-YEAR-OLD man died in a crash in Kingswinford in which a car overturned. The accident happened at the junction of Stallings Lane and Ham Lane, shortly before 6.30pm on Monday.

West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman Jamie Arrowsmith said: "On arrival, crews discovered a car that had come to rest on its roof following the incident, with the driver, a man, still inside the vehicle. the vehicle.

"Ambulance crews quickly assessed the man but unfortunately it immediately became apparent that nothing could be done to save him and he was confirmed

New role for landmark shop as buildings revamped

TOWN C

PLANS to redevelop derelict former Dudley Council offices to create apartments and a cafe in Halesowen town centre have been welcomed.

The Grade-II listed buildings in Great Cornbow and Hagley Street will be transformed into 24 apartments, a cafe and orangery, provided planners give their backing. It will also see the former James Hobbs hardware shop refurbished as part of the build.

Councillor Hilary Bills, who represents the Halesowen North ward, said: "I think it is going to be very good because the builders will be keeping the facade the same as the buildings before, but just make them look a bit better.

"There have been three vacant shops that have started to detariorate so it will

"There have been three vacant snops that have started to deteriorate, so it will be lovely to see them maintained again. "It will be a focal point in Halesowen. It is sad that they have stood empty for so long as it must have been the 1990s when Hobbs was last open."

The plans have been put forward by property developer Ruskin.

property developer Ruskin.

A tap for Halesowen in Bloom members to be able to water plants in the town centre will also be added as part of the build.

Modifications

Planning documents state: "These Grade-II listed buildings date from the early 19th Century Regency period. "The modifications will seek to retain the remaining characteristic features of the existing buildings while making modifications which enhance these features where possible. "The site comprises a series of vacant and largely interconnected buildings with varying commercial uses along with associated external areas to the rear of the

sociated external areas to the rear of the buildings, accessed via Pool Road.

ping area, forming a prominent street scene and corner to the main pedestrian thor-

oughfare.

"The proposals involve converting the buildings to residential apartments and a café/bistro along with associated works in-cluding the demolition of existing out build-ings, the erection of a new orangery and improvements to the elevations.

"The massing of the buildings will be largely unchanged by the works, designed to

be reflective of the architectural styles immediately around them, whilst maintaining a subservience in terms of their massing in

relation to the listed buildings."

The new residential apartments, once converted, will provide one or two bedrooms, one bathroom or en-suite and kitchen, dining and living space.

The bedrooms will be arranged to face to

the rear where possible with the living space

The plans were registered with Dudley Council on May 4.



James Hobbs in Halesowen town centre is part of new redevelopment proposals

VIOLENCE

Albion probe into match day trouble

AN INVESTIGATION has been launched into the crowd trouble at The Hawthorns after Chelsea supporters got hold of tickets amid the home fans.

got hold of tickets amid the home fans.
Baggies bosses have warned that
fans involved in reselling tickets will be
banned. Many Chelsea fans desperate
to see their team clinch the Premier
League title were prepared to pay inflated prices for tickets.
Six Chelsea supporters and three
Baggies fans were arrested after trouble broke out during Chelsea's 1-0 win.

COLLISION

Fatal coach accident closes motorway

A MAN in his 40s has died after he was hit by a coach on the M5. The incident took place on the southbound carriageway be-

place on the southbound carriageway be-tween junction 1 and the M6 shortly after 2.10pm on Tuesday. A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "It very quickly became apparent that nothing could be done to save him and he was confirmed dead at the scene. There were 31 people on the coach but none of them suffered any in-

juries."
West Midlands Police have appealed for witnesses. The incident closed a section of the M5 in the Black Country.

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CHRONICLE ...

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Injured Jamie O'Hara arrives with his children



Suzy Richards with Katie Price and Shayne Ward



Laurna and Melanie Cooper, from Cannock

Stars pitch in with a thrilling charity match

THOUSANDS flocked to the Banks's Stadium to watch stars of music, modelling and TV take to the pitch for a charity football match.

The star-studded event raised money for the Smile for Joel and Compton Hospice charities, with glamour model Katie Price and X Factor winner Shayne Ward taking charge of the two sides on Satur-

day.
Founder of Smile for Joel, Suzy Richards, spoke of how she was overwhelmed by the support she and her family had received organising the fundraising

fixture.

She emotionally thanked players before kick-off after a short video was played to ex plain more about the charity set up in mem-ory of her 19-year-old son Joel Richards.

Joel, from Wednes-bury, was killed along-side his uncle Adrian

side his uncle Adrian
Evans, grandfather
Patrick Evans and 35
others in a terror attack in Sousse, Tunisia, in 2015.
Suzy said: "The support has been fantastic
since day one. The ripples of what happened
have affected so many people. I just cannot
thank everyone enough for their support. Lots
of money has been raised and the total amount
will be revealed next week."

She added: "Every day for us is still hard as you can imagine. But we have to try and get through it the best we can. We went from a family of six to a family of three just by going on holiday. It's tough, but we look after each other. It is an honour that my son Owen has been asked to be a referee today, too."

Owen, 17, who survived the Sousse attack, took charge of the first half of the game before stopping in to play in the second period.

took charge of the first han of the gaine before stepping in to play in the second period. He said: "It's been a brilliant atmosphere and is really heart-warming to see the amount of people who have come to show their support. It is not often that we get celebrities like this here in Walsall."



Terry Alderton dives in vain as the Smiling Saddlers score another





Reality TV personalities Liam Gatsby and James 'Arg' Argent from The Only Way is Essex and Austin Armacost from Celebrity Big Brother warmed up the crowd by posing for selfies and having a prematch kick about. The crowd then crupted as the Compton Wolves and Smiling Saddlers sides ran out

onto the Walsall pitch.

And, although she arrived nearly an hour late flanked by a reality TV crew, Katie Price was still eager to please fans with fighting talk for her Saddlers team.

"Never underestimate the Pricey, we're here to win today," she told host Dicky Dodd before watching her side triumph 6-5.

Corrie actor and singer Shayne Ward was in charge of the opposing team, assisted by Steps star Lee Latchford-Evans.

Other famous names included the likes of Fast.

Other famous names included the likes of East-

enders actors Jake Wood and Dean Gaffney, Jimmy Constable from boy band 911, Youtubers Billy Win-grove and Jeremy Lynch from the F2Freestylers channel, former Wolves player Jamie O'Hara and Calum Best.
Best said: "Kevin Cooper, who is the organiser

Best said: "Kevin Cooper, who is the organiser of the matches, asked me to play and now this is about my twentieth charity game I have done with him. Today is a very special day for two very special charities. All the boys come along and there is no ego about it but everyone is just here for the cause." O'Hara couldn't play in the match due to a torn hamstring but said he still wanted to come out and show his support.

Tickets initially went on sale only for the Homeserve stand but demand was so great they also opened up the lower tier of the Tile Choice stand, and both sold out.

after spate of robberies in **Black Country**

A TOTAL of six men have appeared in court after a spate of armed shop robberies in Dudley and Sandwell.

Martin Rollason is alleged to have carried out five robberies at One Stop shops over a two-week period, armed with a knife and, on one occasion, an axe.

The 30-year-old, of Albionfield Drive, West Bromwich, is charged with five counts of robbery and seven counts of possession of an offensive weapon and was remanded in custody at Dudley Magistrates Court on Monday.

Another man, 19-year-old Aiden Jenkins, also appeared over a separate robbery on the Super Stop off licence in Priory Road, Dudley, on Friday.

Jenkins, of Field Road, Dudley, is charged with robbery and has been re-leased on bail.

Both men are due to appear at Wolver-hampton Crown Court on June 12.

Four of the men were arrested on Friday after armed police dramatically surrounded a house in Dudley for more than two hours.

Kyle Dingley, 18, of Victoria Road, Cradley Heath, and Lee Pritchard, 23, of Gloucester Road, Netherton, have each been charged with one count of robbery. Brad Arnold, 20, of Beechwood Road, Dudley, is charged with two robberies.

James Taplin, 30, from Hawthorn Road, Tipton, has been charged with seven robbery offences, seven counts of possessing an offensive weapon and one of cultivating cannabis.

Floors 4 success as firm expands

MIDLANDS-BASED Floors 4 You, the UK's largest independent flooring spe-cialist, has purchased the freehold of its

Halesowen premises.

The business is also to open a further 10 new sites across of the UK following \$800,000 funding from Santander Corporate and Commercial.

porate and Commercial.

Established in 2011, Floors 4 You has
quickly grown into a leading national
supplier of laminated, wood, carpet and
vinyl flooring specialist.

The firm was started by Abdul Shakir
and You's Market both

and Yasir Mahkmoud, who have both worked in the flooring industry for 15

worked in the mooring industry for 15 years, and remain the two shareholders of the company.

The firm currently employs over 100 full time staff, and has 25 sites across the country.

Finger lickin' food and jobs boost too

A NEW KFC restaurant has opened it doors in Stourbridge.

The fast-food chicken chain has built a

restaurant off the town centre ring road, creating around 50 jobs.

The branch, off Mill Race Lane, has a drive-thru for customers.





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PEOPLE living close to a Brierley Hill hostel where a 17-year-old girl was found dead have called for the

min noster where a 17-year-old grievas found dead have called for the premises to be shut down.

Neighbours of the Highgate Road property have spoken out after the body of Megan Bills, of Stourbridge, was found in a wardrobe last week.

Unemployed Ashley Foster, aged 24, appeared before magistrates in Dudley last week. He is accused of preventing the lawful and decent burial of Miss Bills without lawful excuse between April 16 and May 4. He was remanded in custody.

The hostel, which is two houses split into four flats, provides support for people who have recently left prison or are on probation. Neighbours claimed they had not been told that the property would house ex-of-fenders.

fenders.

finders.
Richard Young, who lives in High-gate Road with his wife and teenaged, daughter said: "It has caused a lot of problems. We have had drug paraphernalia come over into our garden."
Another neighbour, Sobia Iqbal, who is married with two young children, said: "I'm all for giving people a second chance but the fact is this place is right by a nursery, just a stone's throw away from a school and opposite a park. It makes you feel scared."
Alan Lunt, a strategic director at

scared."
Alan Lunt, a strategic director at
Dudley Council said: "This building
is not operated by the council and we
have no control over who is placed
there by external agencies. We have
no grounds to close the site down."

Boy arrested after pupil was injured

A TEENAGER has been arrested after a suspected stabbing outside a school in the Black Country.

A 14-year-old pupil suffered an injury to his leg near Perryfields High School in Oldbury. A boy, also 14, was detained by school staff and arrested on suspicion of wounding.

Police were called to the school on Oldacre Road on Thursday afternoon.

A statement from the school said: "The school remains a safe and friendly place."

Police spokesman Gina Lycett said: "A 14-year-old was treated for a minor injury to his leg and a 14-year-old boy as arrested on suspicion of wound-

"He was released from custody

Ruby will shine in own spotlight

HANDSWORTH-RAISED soul, gospel and reggae singer Ruby Turner HANDSWORTH-KAISED soul, gos-pel and reggae singer Ruby Turner will take a break from her gigs with Jools Holland for a concert in her own right at Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre on May 28, tickets £20.

Rise in breakdowns caused by potholes

POTHOLE-RELATED breakdowns surged in the first three months of 2017, new figures show.

The RAC said the condition of local roads was on a knife-edge and one season of cold and wet weather could make it worse than ever.

It dealt with more than 6,500 breakdowns be-tween January and March likely to be attributable to poor road surfaces, an increase of 63 per cent on the same period last year. This included broken suspension springs, damaged shock absorbers and distorted wheels.

distorted wheels.

The last time the firm recorded as many pothole-related defects was in the first quarter of 2015.

It described the figures as a major concern because it expected the mild and comparatively dry winter to lead to a reduction in incidents.

RAC chief engineer David Bizley said: "Our figures sadly show a surprising and unwelcome first quarter rise in the number of breakdowns where the poor quality of the road surface was a major



factor. We had expected a figure no worse than that recorded in the first quarter of 2016 (4,026) and it is very concerning that the roads, strangely, appear to have deteriorated."

A recent Alarm study by the Ashphalt Industry Alliance found that local authorities need more than £12 billion of funding to bring the road net-work up to scratch. The gap between the amount councils say they received in the last year and what

they require to keep roads in reasonable order is almost £730 million.

Mr Bizley added: "We still have a long way to go to ensure the whole road network – not just our major roads which are enjoying one of the largest investment programmes in a generation – are really fit for purpose.

"Certainly anyone that has experienced a break-down as a result of hitting a pothole will know just how frustrating that can be, not to say dangerous and expensive if vehicle damage is sustained.

"The backlog in preventative maintenance reported by the Alarm survey suggests we are on a knife-edge and it will only take one season of poor weather to take us back to where we were a few

The Local Government Association, which represents more than 370 councils in England and Wales, say councils fix a pothole every 19 seconds, amounting to 1.75 million per year.

Night at museum will cost half price

THE Black Country Living Museum will be open on Saturday night for its annual Red by Night event. It is part of the European-wide annual Museums at Night festival. The museum will bring the old Black Country back to life with lots of noise and smoke as costumed demonstrators display traditional skills at the Tinton Road attraction.

the Tipton Road attraction.

To book tickets, visit www.bclm.
com or call 0121 520 8054.

Tickets are half the usual admission price, so £4.40 for a young person and carer and £8.75 for adults.

Pupils and teacher OK after accident

SIX pupils and a teacher were taken to hospital after an accident during a science lesson at a Quinton school.

An ambulance was called to Four Dwellings High School last week after the teenagers and teacher were exposed to fumes, which can cause breathing difficulties, when a student mistakenly opened a bottle of the chemical bromine water during a science lesson.

It was reported that all of them were discharged 'fit and well' after they had check ups at the Queen Elizabeth and Birmingham Children's hospitals.

Mayfly mirth and music at college

STUDENTS at Halesowen College will be raising the roof again at their annual music festival – Mayfly – to-morrow (Friday). Second year music students will be

Second year music students will be celebrating music through the decades from the 1960s to the present day. There will be three stages filled with music, drama, stand-up comedy and dance plus refreshments all day. The afternoon events are for schools but the accession of the second plus refreshment of the first schools with the accession of the second plus refreshment of the first school of the second plus refreshment of the first school of the second plus refreshment of the second plus refr

but the evening is open to all for £5 on the door, from $5.30 \mathrm{pm}$ until $10.30 \mathrm{pm}$.

Paws for thought at park's fun day

A BANK holiday family fun day is being held in Buffery Park, Dudley, on May 29 from 11am, featuring the Paws in the Buffery dog show. The Friends and Residents of Buff-ery Park in Dudley and K9 Search UK are organising the event. For further details see www. k9searchuk.com/events or call 07988 433187

Other attractions will include stalls bouncy castles and face painting

Hall the fun of the fair

TRACTION engines and fairground organs will be on show at Himley Hall, near Dudley, on Sunday, June 4. The grounds of the hall will be used for a free admission vintage transport

and country fair running from 10am to 4pm. There will also be craft stalls plus Punch and Judy show.

Former soldier is jailed for stealing ten cars

cars, who took 10 vehicles with a total value of almost £100,000 in three months, has been locked up

for nine years.

Adam Bodycote twice drove off with people hanging from the vehicles and almost knocked down another owner as he targeted those selling on the internet. Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the 28-year-old swerved from side to side at

Adam Bodycote

rom side to side at up to 35mph while trying to shake off Mr Amjad Ali, the owner of a £6,000 BMW, until he was thrown onto was thrown onto a grass bank near his Oldbury home on January 22.

A police consta-ble jumped from a stolen Ford Focus

to 'avoid serious to 'avoid serious injury' as Body-cote reversed at speed with the of-ficer clinging onto the car in Church

Lane, West Bromwich, on February 13, said Mr

Lane, West Bromwich, on February 13, said Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting.

The owner of a £7,000 BMW was almost knocked down by his own car after being pushed away while getting into the passenger seat after Bodycote said he wanted a test drive. The door narrowly missed the victim. Bodycote posed as a potential buyer after cars were advertised online on either the Gumtree or eBay websites. Seven were stolen and three

were advertised online on either the Gumtree or eBay websites. Seven were stolen and three seized in robberies at addresses in Smethwick, Oldbury and Cradley Heath between December 5 and February 13. The total value was £96,755. Five have been recovered but vehicles worth almost £49,000 are still missing.

Miss Sally Cairns, defending, said father-of-three Bodycote had been 'obsessed' with cars since childhood. His life had gone downhill due to drugs.

since children. And the to drugs.

Bodycote, of Beech Road, Wednesbury, pleaded guilty to fraud, theft, robbery, handling stolen property and driving while disqualified.

Stylish steel by design for park



Sculptor Luke Perry, of Cradley Heath, with some of the designs he is creating for Mary Stevens Park

HE'S the metal magician who has helped bring landmarks around the Black Country to life with his eye-catching sculptures.

Now Cradley Heath artist Luke Perry is turning his atten-tion to Mary Stevens Park in Stourbridge, with these Edwardi-an-style designs made out of steel that is made to look like iron.

funerai

AWARDS

They will decorate a series of information panels that will tell the story of the historic park which has been undergoing a £3 million makeover.

The metalworks will go by the Norton Road entrance of the park and another by the war memorial.

Mr Perry has taken inspiration from the park's famous entrance

gates, which have also been spruced up as part of the improve-ment works.

He said: "These will last for hundreds of years, they are a per-manent addition to the park."

Mr Perry also created the sculptures in the Mary Macarthur Gardens in Cradley Heath and at Titford Pools Canal, Oldbury.

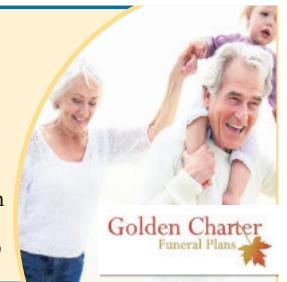
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for lying

Marl Swift died in hospital after being punched by work colleague Dean Hartley Jr in Halesowen town centre following an argument over football. Dean Hartley Sr had been drinking with the pair and three others at the

had been drinking with the pair and three others at the William Shenstone pub. All were from Yorkshire and were working in the Black Country.

Hartley Sr told police he and his son had found Mr Swift in New Road and that he must have fallen. CCTV, witnesses and pathological evidence exposed as false the account given by Hartley Jr, repeated by Hartley Jr, repeated by Hartley Jr and another man present. and another man present, Lee Ardron.

Lee Ardron.

Hartley Sr, aged 52, and
Ardron, 30, both admitted
intending to pervert the
course of justice and were
jailed for eight months and
six months respectively on
Friday. Hartley Jr, 30, was
found guilty of manslaughter in April and jailed for
eight years three months eight years three months.

eight years three months.
Miss Anne-Marie Hutton,
defending Hartley Sr, said
the lie was told 'in the heat
of the moment'.
Judge James Burbidge
QC said: "As a father trying
to cover for his son, one can
understand the difficulty
you faced to a degree, but
you of course should have
told the truth."

* Father of killer sent to prison for Iving wrong way on ring road

in the Black Country with the police in hot pursuit, has been locked up for 10 months after being described as 'a silly boy'.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that police halted their pursuit when 18-year-old Mustafa Islam drove the wrong way on Stourbridge Ring Road. He was on a joy ride in a Vauxhall Astra that had

but quickly ground to a halt as a second tyre went flat.

Islam told police he knew
the Astra was stolen and
had been drinking and taking drugs before driving.
Mr Richard Mohabir, de-

year and five months.
Judge James Burbidge
QC told him: "You had been
drinking and taking cannabis before driving at up to
70 mph in a 30 limit. Merci-

been taken from an address in Rowley Regis in a car key burglary six days earlier. A tyre flew off the saloon

A tyre flew on the sadout as it sped away from police the driver ignored a police request to stop when driv-ing in Netherton during the early hours.

Mr Paul Spratt, prose-cuting, said that soon after-

wards another police patrol spotted the Astra on the outskirts of Lye, speeding at more than twice the 30 mph limit with showers of sparks flying from the wheel without a tyre.

Pursued

During the incident at around at 4am on September 14, police pursued the car as it hurtled through a red traffic light. But they abandoned the chase after Islam drove the stolen car

the wrong way around Stourbridge Ring Road. The chase resumed after the vehicle was seen in nearby Greenfield Avenue

Trail aims to enhance good mental health



Artist Alison Turner and her husband Ian Turner with one of her mosaics on the trail

HUNDREDS of students at Halesowen College stood together to highlight mental

Students came out in sup-Students came out in sup-port and filled the new 1km-long Mental Health Trim Trail, which was officially launched by Martin Muel-ler, chief executive officer of

or, chief executive officer of Dudley Mind.

The college has also made a film about mental health with students Abigail Caplen, Megan Young and Katherine Gill to mark the launch

Katherine said: "The trail looks great with the mosaics and seating areas – it will be a great benefit to everyone."

The college received £9,700 from the Big Lottery Fund to enhance its Trim Trail, which includes a sen-

Trail, which includes a sensory garden and mosaic art installations by local artist Alison Turner.

The college students union also funded a sensory garden for the disabled.

Jo Williams, Interim Principal at Halesowen College said: "The idea for the mental health trim trail first came from staff and students and it is great to see it become a reality."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Dragon boat race returns to Himley

THE 17th annual Chinese dragon boat racing competition, organised by Wol-verhampton Rotary Club, takes place on the Great Pool at Himley Hall this weekend.

Over the years £340,000

has been raised for charnas been raised for char-tites, mainly within the local area with hundreds of people usually turning out to watch. This year's team event on Sunday runs from 10am-4.30pm with peo-ple urged to cheer on the teams

teams.

Earlier this month there was an RNLI Six Hour Lifeboat Race. And it follows the British Mini Day held recently.

For further information on the Dragon Boat Race contact Mike Boyce on 07976 612276. It is free admission and car parking.

Former campus to get 43 homes

A LONG-AWAITED £6

A LONG-AWAITED £6 million housing estate on the site of a former Dudley College campus has finally got the go-ahead.

Work on 43 homes at the old Mons Hill college campus, near Wrens Nest Nature Reserve, will now gather pace after a deal was agreed following a six year wait. Homes were first proposed for the Wrens Hill Road site back in 2011. Now housing association Midland Heart has struck a deal with developer Lovells to build the properties. The development will be a mix of one-bedroom flats and two, three and four bedroom houses.





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Venue warned not to rival the Grand

CAMPAIGNERS behind the multi-million pound restoration of Dudley Hippodrome have been told to prove it will not rival Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre before receiving crucial funding.

crucial funding.

The group leading the project has applied to the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) for more than £100,000 to carry out a feasibility study. However, the LEP could decide not to award funds if it feels it could harm another venue.

feels it could harm another venue.

The venue's rescue group, who have renamed it the Black Country Hippodrome, have hired solicitors to make their case and say they are confident they will get the funding. Initial work at the historic Castle Hill venue will focus on removing asbestos.

The group will need to provide evidence the 1,700-seater Hippodrome will not take custom from the Grand Theatre in the city's Lichfield Street, which prides himself as the theatre for the Black Country.

The aim is for shows to run at the Hippodrome for the first time in half a

Hippodrome for the first time in half a

Hippodrome for the first time in half a century when it opens its doors again, and it will also be a conference venue. Steve Daniels, of the Black Country Hippodrome, said: "We are confident we won't be in competition. What we will be doing will be totally different." He added there was another potential avenue for funding.

tial avenue for funding

School staff run up cash for sensory room

STAFF from a school in Sandwell raised more than £1,000 for a hospital charity by completing the Great Birmingham 10km run.

mingham 10km run.
A team of six staff from Bristnall
Hall Academy in Oldbury took part
in the event and raised nearly £1,100
towards a sensory room for Sandwell
and West Birmingham Hospitals.

Police boss criticises council: over its fake speed camera

A-Ha! Stan and Ollie movie tribute



Another fine mess for John C Reilly, left, as Ollie and Alan Partridge star Steve Coogan as Stan during filming

HOLLYWOOD rolled into the Black Country with Steve Coogan and John C Reilly shooting scenes for the forth-coming movie Stan and Ollie.

The pair appeared as Laurel and Hardy in front of the cameras at the Hardy in front of the cameras at the Black Country Living Museum, where they are filming a biopic about the leg-endary Anglo-American comedy duo. Coogan, who is best know for his comedy character Alan Partridge,

plays Lancashire-born Stan Laurel, while Oscar nominated American actor Reilly takes the role of Oliver Hardy.

One onlooker said: "It's been fascinating—it's not every day that you see Steve Coogan out and about in Dudley. It was amazing watching him and John C Reilly perform. It was a real

treat." Coogan and Reilly, both aged 51,

were seen relaxing between scenes for the movie, which is directed by Jon Baird. Visitors were able to enter the Tipton Road museum during film but were unable to go in to the 1930s

The Laurel and Hardy biopic is set during the pair's last tour of British variety halls. The duo from the golden age of Hollywood appeared at Dudley Hippodrome in 1947 and '52.

stalled on one of the Black Country's busiest roads is a fake.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson has accused the authority of deceiving the public after bosses installed

what he said was nothing more than 'a metal box'.

The camera was set up in March on the Birmingham New Road, near the junction of Woodcroft Avenue on the Dudley-Sandwell border

Council chief executive Sarah Nor-man admitted the camera was 'not op-erational'. A Freedom of Information request revealed correspondence on the issue between Mrs Norman and

the issue between Mrs Norman and Mr Jamieson.

Describing the situation as 'an embarrassing episode', Mr Jamieson wrote: "I am deeply concerned that the safety camera that your council has installed on Birmingham New Road is in fact a fake and is not intended to be operational. It really should not be described as a safety camera. It is a metal hox

Confidence

"By installing a camera that isn't functioning, a deception has been placed on the public and confidence in road safety measures has been under-

road safety measures has been undermined."

Mr Jamieson went on to demand that the council 'urgently clarify the situation with the public'. In response Mrs Norman wrote: "We have relocated an existing camera housing to a site on the Birmingham New Road to help address a long-standing problem with speeding in that vicinity.

"This is not the first time Dudley have relocated an obsolete camera.

have relocated an obsolete camera We are not keen to promote the fact that all static safety camera housings in the borough are non-operational as they would cease to be a deterrent."

Spending claim is

CONSERVATIVE candidate for Dudley South Mike Wood has told of his relief after he was cleared over allegations he had breached election spend-

ing rules.
Mr Wood was one of several Tory candidates investigated over spend ing in the run-up to the 2015 General Election.

Mr Wood claimed that the allega-

tions had been 'obviously politically motivated' and that the Crown Proseright conclusion.

The former Dudley councillor added: "It is a great relief that a line and he down and that the crown rose."

can be drawn under this episode."

Cannock Chase parliamentary candidate Amanda Milling was also cleared. The CPS head of special crime, Nick

Vamos, said there was insufficient evidence to prove that there had been idence to prove any dishonesty.



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IN MY VIEW

Shocking reminder of online reliance

THE cyber attack on the NHS is a timely reminder of how we have all become far too dependent on the internet.

Nobody would deny that the internet is a useful tool, and has made massive

strides in increasing efficiency over the past couple of decades. I'm sure that within the NHS it has improved services, saved a lot of money, and possibly saved lives. But that comes with a caveat. Computers are invariably fallible, and susceptible to attack it is why I have pever been tible to attack. It is why I have never been tempted by internet banking, despite the

tempted by internet banking, despite the lure of better interest rates.

The internet is a useful tool which can make services more efficient. But it must never become something which we stake our lives on. And imagine the carriage if it was the driverless car industry that had been the target of the hackers instead.

THE General Election has reignited the old debate about whether our railways are better run as a private enterprise or as a state-owned service. I suspect a great deal of nostalgia for the golden days of

a state-owned service. I suspect a great deal of nostalgia for the golden days of British Rail comes from young people with no memories of the wheezing old locos pulling flithy carriages and staff with all the joie de vivre of a wet weekend in Margate. But what really puzzles me is how people get so worked up about this when our railways are, to all intents and purposes, nationalised already. The routes are owned by the Government, and managed by the state-owned Network Rail. The franchises are awarded by the Department for Transport. And many of the services are provided by state-owned operators – such as Deutsche Bahn, which does a very passable impression of the old British Rail with ts Arriva Wales service in this neck of the woods. Not to mention the notorious woods. Not to mention the notorious Southern Rail franchise in London and the south-east, part owned by the French state operator SNCF. So our rail network is state-owned, the franchises are de-termined by the Government, and often awards them to state-owned companies.

ANYWAY, I think whether the railways ANYWAY, I trink whether the railways are privately or publicly owned is a bit of a red herring. The real issue is whether they should be run on a commercial basis, as they are at the moment, or whether they should be subsidised by the public purse.

At a superficial level, more investment

At a supernicial level, more investment in our rail network, particularly if it keeps fares down, sounds very attractive. Except, of course, that in the Black Country, we don't really have a rail network, Beeching saw to that in the 1960s. I would love to think that "more invest-

would love to think that more invest-ment" in our railways meant things like the reopening of the old Walsall-Dud-ley-Stourbridge line and everybody hav-ing easy access to a station. But the cynic in me thinks it will mean White Van Man subsidising well-heeled commuters in London and the other big cities.

It's all bugging us with royals, politicians and the EU



Medical expert Dame Sally Davies, warning us all on too much use of antibiotics



Prince Philip, a role model for people moan-ing about extending the retirement age limit



Monty Python's Holy Grail – your father smelt of elderberries, on a T-shirt near you now!

Sally's warning on antibiotics' overuse

AFTER the recent puzzle about why submariners wear camouflage combat kit, a reader asks, why do counters at some polling stations wear hi-viz yellow jackets? Maybe it's to protect them from floating voters.

"WE will probably be all right but our grand-children won't, if we don't take action." Chief Medical Officer Dame Sally Davies this week on the rise of superbugs caused by over-use of

DAME Sally is even suggesting that, as an-DAME Sally is even suggesting intal, as aintibiotics become useless, the latest strain of so-called 'super gonorrhea' might be treated by the mediaeval practice of putting mercury in the bladder. We may live to see the reappearance of that grim ditty from 300 years ago: "A night with Vegus a lifetime with presents." Venus, a lifetime with mercury.

WHY is it I cannot look at the word 'supergonorrhea' without a mental image of Dick van Dyke as Bert the chimney sweep in Mary Pop-pins? Um-dittle-ittl-um-dittle-I

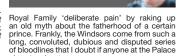
"I BELIEVE there is a lot to learn from reading Kapital." Those are the 11 words that could spell the end of shadow chancellor John McDonnell's political career. His support for Karl Marx's handbook on communism is more than Marx's nandbook on communism is more than his shadow-cabinet comrades can stomach. A revolt to unseat him is said to be under way. But why? If you don't believe there is a lot to learn from Das Kapital, how can you call yourself a socialist? And are socialists no longer welcome is the leave. in the Labour Party?

A READER writes: "Historians have revealed that they may have found the location in Suffolk where St Edmund is buried. It is thought to be in the town of Bury St Edmunds. How much do these people earn?"

IF you believe everything you read the much-hyped King Charles III (BBC2) will cause the

PETER RHODES

gives two hoots.



IS the Duke of Edinburgh a role model for young people? Absolutely. The way the state pension is going, they're all going to have to work until they're 96.

THE then-and-now photos of droughts have been entertaining the Great British Public for many years, but what do they actually tell us? See, here is an image of a pretty bridge across a river. When we had lots of rain, the river was full. Now we have no rain, the river is not so full. Coming soon: somewhat drier fields. The drought news — brought to you but the Departs. drought news - brought to you by the Department of the Bleedin' Obvious.

THERE was a wonderful moment in The Durrells (ITV) when the awkward teenager Leslie (Callum Woodhouse) first encountered the achingly tempting Corfiot beauty Vasilia (Errika Bigiou). In that split-second of desire, the viewfinder flap on his ancient camera suddenly screan onen It was a cheek metaphor; the late sprang open. It was a cheeky metaphor; the late Brian Rix would have loved it. There is no deny-ing that the gorgeous, pouting Vasilia is exactly the sort of older woman that could pop a young

A FORMER comrade of the hate preacher Anjem Choudary is reported to have returned from Syria to the UK where he is working as a pizza delivery rider. Hell, this is serious. In the

great scrieffle of tillings, i bertai more lady asset britons are killed every year by take-away pizza than by terrorism. Double-thick, special greasy 12-incher with extra spicy sausage for the infi-

THE men and women calculating a harsh Brexit deal in Brussels are not our friends. They may not even be particularly nice people, especially now that their beloved European Project is losing its second-biggest player. It is hard for us Eurosceptic Brits to comprehend the religious-like fervour the EU inspires in some circles. In one of those asides which really is worth investigating further, Ian Hislop remarked on Have I Got News for You (BBC1) that Jean-

Claude Juncker is "a difficult piece of work . . . he's not a great guy." Certainly, the language being used by Juncker and his fellow EU negotiators is not so much the language of friends but of jailers and it stirs a deep race-memory of snarling across the Channel. I noticed this week that you can buy T-shirts on eBay with the wonderful insults between French and English knights in Monty Python and the Holy Grail: "Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries." Unless calmer heads revail, by the time Brexit is over we'll all be

AND off, for reasons I won't bore you with, to the baby-equipment superstore. Here is living proof that if you delay having babies until you can afford them, you will never breed. One pram cost a cool £940. Our first pram was a Silver Cross, as used by the Royal Family, and it cost us a tenner, second-hand. I dare say these days we'd be arrested for child neglect.

LEAFING through the hobby mags I found one feature by an enthusiastic hack who had tested and reviewed 17 different sorts of paint-brushes. Ah, the untold glamour of journalism.

TALKING POINT

A dog's life should not be fashion accessory

WHY do they do it? Recipe for cruelty. Take one cute dog, shave off a lot of its fur, sprinkle with stupid brightly-coloured bows and watch it be ridiculed.

We are supposed to be a nation of dog lovers yet some people just treat them as toys to be dressed up and shown off.

Surely all a dog wants is to be cared for, fed, given affection and taken out for regular walks. Not fluffing up and dressing up to appear in a competition.

Do the dog show officials actually judge if the dog is happy about what is inflicted no it?

responsible to the state of the show have taught their dog to be on best behaviour for the judges. But are they classed as pets or just something to show off in the hope of taking home a prize?

Man's best friend? I don't think so.
Would you actually want your best
friend to be treated that way?

I have seen cute dogs - naturally cute - adorned with various outfits, red bows on their heads, fancy dress costumes, especially at Christmas, and worse. A lot of the time you would not treat a child

that way.

People often criticise beauty pageants as being sexist or showy but this is no better. In fact it is much worse.

Waiting to be judged the poor dogs sit round for hours, often in hot and probably cramped conditions with no idea of what awaits them.

Do owners actually think their dogs en-joy the experience?

And what about the stars with their

handbag dogs. These 'pets' do actually have legs and would probably enjoy the exercise. They should not just be used as

a fashion accessory.
You won't find any dogs who actually 'check themselves out' in a mirror. They would rather be chewing on a bone!

And what did I see on television the other day – an advert which positively en-courages dog owners to dress them up. A busker out with his dog is basically

being ignored but put the dog in some ri-diculous outfit and suddenly the busker's bucket starts to fill up at a rapid pace. So that cruel gimmick is being touted

as a way to make extra money. These 'pets' are not circus animals there to entertain. There is criticism about performing animals which is often labelled as cruel. Is this not just as bad?

Often when I drive home from work I see a man out playing with his dog, throwing the ball for his dog to chase.

What a lovely scene and no doubt a very happy pet. That is loving your dog.

As they always say a dog is not for Christmas it is for life so give it a decent Christmas it is it is it is it. is it



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quality of care had become worse in the last year with only three per cent believing it had improved. With the NHS facing a £30bn defi-

cus on Brexit. With the NHS facing a £30bn defi-In the West Midlands, hospitals, general practice and social care have been pushed to breaking point as years mace figures, increased waiting times of underinvestment has left NHS staff for treatment and bed shortages are and services worryingly overstretched. Having a direct impact on patient care Indeed, a recent British Medical Association (BMA) survey revealed that health care systems in the world, years doctors are becoming increasingly concerned over funding cuts and the impact on patient care, with more than failing too many patients, too often.

in the EU are protected from the im pact of Brexit, that general practice is properly supported, that policies pro-tect and enhance the public's health, and that the pressures impacting the day-to-day delivery of high-quality, safe care are tackled

DR STEPHEN MILLAR BMA West Midlands regional council chair

Whatever happened to manners?

NOBODY has manners anymore. The world's gone mad, teachers can't tell the children off these days as they might get stabbed, or

worse.
We were always told in school to behave or we would have a piece of chalk thrown at us, or the cane across our at us, or the cane across our hands, or sent to the head-master. You were scared to death, and when you got home your dad would clip you round the ears as well.

With all these do-gooders the world's gone mad. I was going through the door at our dentist and children harred through without

barged through without saying anything, don't they teach manners in school these days?

Every morning in our school we would have halfan-hour going through some manners before we carried on with lessons. Nobody picks up litter

when it gets dropped the whole borough looks a mess with all the rubbish about.

MRS A WILSON Brierley Hill

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Dudley Chronicle, Chronicle Editorial, 51-53 Queen Street

EMAIL

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Code of Practice: Our policy is to correct errors as soon as we can. The Chronicles adhere to the Editors' Code of Practice, which can be seen at

Calm talks rather than threats please

BRITAIN has been a member of the European Union for

43 years.
We have been good members, paying all of our contribu-

tions (not like some of the members).

The people of Britain decided democratically at a referendum to exit the EU, namely Brexit. So why are we getting all of this aggro and threats from other member countries, especially from Juncker and his band? Britain has done

more than any other European parliament.

All that Britain wants is to leave the EU. We will still be trading with the EU and they need us more than we

eed them.

So come on EU leaders, let's have a calm negotiation on aving the EU and forget all this aggro.

BOB WHITEHOUSE

Kingswinford

Thank you for your kindness

LAST Friday I was driving my wife to a medical ap-pointment in Wolverhamp-

ton and had a puncture.
Fortunately we were just outside the Londis service station in Warstones Road, so I pulled on to their fore-

court.
Changing a wheel was beyond my physical capability, so I asked a man on the car wash for assistance. With no hesitation he di-

rected me to a quiet corner and proceeded to change the wheel with dexterity skill using the jack and tools from my car. So very little time was lost and we were only 10 minutes late for our

appointment.
On completion, he refused to take any payment what-soever. Such acts of kindness get very little publicity and so, although I do not know his name, I would like to publicly thank him for his

very kind act.
Thank you sir, you are a true gentleman.
EDGAR AUSTIN

Kingswinford



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Fry's delight - Sarah Barker, left, with Alex Souskas, Hayley Fletcher and Charlotte Adams outside The Blue Submarine

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USING nothing but the best ingredients is the secret behind the success of a Dudley chippy which has been named the borough's finest.

The Blue Submarine, which is located near Russells Hall Hospital, has been one of the top takeaways in the Black Country for three decades.

In the past 30 years it has won numerous industry awards, and has been awarded a maximum of five stars by Dudley Council's environmental health department.

health department.

Now it has won Most Popular Chip
Shop of the Year 2017 in Dudley in a
competition run by The Chronicle's

sister newspaper the Express & Star. The shop, which is a previous runner-up in a national Fish and Chip Shop of the Year contest, serves an average of 3,000 customers per week and employs 14 staff.

Busiest

Boss Tony Andreas said: "I think there are several reasons for our success, and why we are still the busiest shop of its type in the Black Country. "Firstly, because it has remained a family-run business, we have a personal investment in what we do and produce here. That changes

everything. We filter our vegetable oils every day, sometimes twice a day, making our products virtually car-bon-free. "We source the best ingredients, in-

cluding fish that's delivered daily from sustainable waters.

chippies were rated by the number of tokens handed in by readers, while there was also a mystery shopper element which saw the takeaway taste tested.

The runner-up in Dudley borough

was Our Plaice in Dudley Road, Hale-sowen with Bromley Lane Chippy in Kingswinford third.

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Ron still family owned and run to the new address. After attends the store each day extensions we as he still is as enthusiast as he was 50 years ago. Jan and Ron Welch. As a purchased the freehold Sadly, Jan passed away specialist wallpaper and of 468, High Street, the in 2014 after working in paint store our policy former Oddfellows Arms, the business for 48 years has always been to offer in 2008. We carried out helping to build and establish the business.

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Cock-a-doodle don't make so much noise

become public enemy num-ber one in a Black Country street - and landed its owner in hot water with a council.
Great-grandfather Steve Jones

has been threatened with a fine of up to £5,000 if he does not take action over his booming bird, which fed-up neighbours say is driving them mad.

Dudley Council's Anti-Social Behav-iour Team has written to Mr Jones warning him he must put a stop to the racket after receiving several com-

plaints. Residents in Marley Road, King-swinford, have reached their wit's end and say the bird has been crowing all hours of the day. However, Mr Jones, aged 61, disputes claims his pet is making too much noise.

Bobby

The cockerel, named Bobby Moore by the West Ham supporter, is kept in a coop in the garden, along with six hens. The council has launched an investigation and said it will visit the street to monitor noise levels.

A letter sent under the heading 'anti-social behaviour' stated the owners of cockerels must ensure they do not cause a nuisance to other residents and advised him to consider keeping it

and advised him to consider keeping it indoors at night.

Mr Jones said: "He makes a muffled noise but you can't really hear it. He isn't any trouble. I could understand if he was doing it 24/7, then I would do something about it. You don't hear him in the night. I put a blanket over him because when they see the light in the morning that's when they start crowing. I spoke to one neighbour who said it gets on his nerves now and again but it's a natural thing for a cockerel to crow."

a cockerel to crow."

The letter from the council states:



Steve Jones, of Kingswinford, with his cockerel, Bobby Moore

"If we are satisfied that the noise constitutes a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, an abatement notice will be served requiring you to stop the disturbance, and if this is not complied with, you could face a maximum fine of £5,000."

Mr Jones said he would fight any action against him, adding: "I haven't done anything wrong.'

Alan Lunt, strategic director of place at the authority, said: "While we understand people may choose to keep animals within their home and garden, we do ask people to consider the impact on their neighbours. In this case, we have issued guidance on keeping cockerels and reducing noise levels. We will be monitoring the situation



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* Extremely worrying' figures reveal over 50 gun incidents

POLICE have recorded more than 50 incidents of guns being fired in the Black Country in five years.
Firearms were discharged 57 times between 2012 and 2016, accord-

ing to new West Midlands Police figures released following a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request by The Chronicle's sister newspaper the Express & Star.

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson said that the police take gun crime 'very seriously'.

And council leaders have said they said the

'don't want to see guns on the streets'. Sandwell Council's cabinet member

for public health and protection, Councillor Preet Gill, said: "These figures are very concerning. The risk of harm is really concerning. We do not want to

Escalate Sedgley's Councillor Bill Etheridge, UKIP defence spokesman, said there has been a rise in the number of people

has been a rise in the number of people carrying weapons on the streets.

"When I was younger, it was unheard of to think that people would be walking around with any form of weapon and now it is common place," he said. "Now it is starting to escalate and go down a dangerous path. To have any figures regarding gun crime is extremely worrying."

The data relates to Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Police carried out the most arrests and charges relating to the incidents

and charges relating to the incidents in 2014. Officers arrested people 21 times in that year and charged people six times.

see guns on our streets.

The data shows officers carried out 38 arrests relating to the incidents, while people were charged on 10 occasions. The police force said the incidents were defined as: "When there is clear evidence when a firearm has been discovered by the control of the con Reminder to register for election vote

POLL cards should have arrived by now at all homes across Dudley borough ahead of next month's General

Election.

People will be going to the polls on June 8. Dudley Council is currently delivering cards informing residents of polling station locations. All homes should have had them by May 14.

Sarah Norman, chief executive and elections returning officer, said: "I would urge people to make sure they are registered to vote if they want to have their say in the General Election next month."

The registration date is Monday

The registration date is Monday (May 22), residents can register on-line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or office at www.gov.ukr/egister-to-vote or contact the local electoral registration office on (01384) 814740, which you can also call if you have not received your poll card. People can apply to vote by post (by May 23) or can appoint a proxy to vote on their behalf (by May 31). For more information on voting visit www.dudley.gov.uk

t's no joke, Jonny now has his own ale



Comedian Jonny Cole toasts the success of the new brew, Fat Face

BLACK Country ale drinkers will be able to raise a glass to comedian Jon-ny Cole who is having his own brand

ny Cole who is having his own brand of beer launched.

The Stourbridge-based Sadler's Brewery has joined forces with Cole to brew up the new ale called Fat Face.

The first pints will be pulled at the official launch at the Sadler's Brewhouse and Bar venue in Lye on Wednesday, May 24, when Jonny will perform his act including some new material.

material.

Fat Face is one of the most popular songs from the repertoire of the comedian who has developed a huge following with his performances around the Black Country.

Mr Cole said: "I played at the brewery a few months ago and it went down a storm. We were having a drink afterwards when it was suggested they

down a storm. We were having a drink afterwards when it was suggested they could name a beer after me. I said 'call me tomorrow when you are sober.' They did and we said 'let's go for it.' "They wanted the beer to be like me, Black Country born and brewed – and a little bit cheeky."

- and a little bit cheeky."
Sadler's sales director Ian King
said: "It's great to be involved with
someone like Jonny who is such a popular Black Country character and to
have him associated with our ales is a
great coup for us."

Mr Cole is literally back on his feet
grain after a serious health scare a

Mr Cole is literally back on his feet again after a serious health scare a month ago when he feared he would be out of action for 12 months because of a back problem. "Thankfully, after surgery, I'm back in business," added Jonny.

Pensioner's £2k donation boosts appeal

EFFORTS to install a tower clock and restore an organ at a church have been given an unexpected boost thanks to a £2,000 donation from a generous pensioner who read about the church's plight in The Chronicle.

The vicar at St Peter's Church, in Cradley, was staggered when the woman handed over a bundle of notes after reading about the anneal

after reading about the appeal.

The cash will go towards repairs to The cash will go towards repairs whe huge clock and organ, salvaged during the demolition of St Luke's Church in Reddal Hill, Stourbridge. The woman lives locally and wishes to remain anonymous.

Reverend Katryn Leclezio said: "I

was absolutely astounded at the thick bundle of notes which was handed over to me. I had expected £50 or so but wasn't expecting quarter of what we are trying to raise.

"She has lived a long time in the community and just wanted to help. She is not a rich person but has been careful with her money all her life."

The church has been without an

organ since 2011. The congregation has made do with a keyboard. Rev Leclezio said: "The number of weddings at St Peter's is slowly increasing and we have a significant number of funerals. The organ adds so much to these important moments." See www.crowdfunder.co.uk/comp

ton-organ-refurbishment to donate

Birdwatchers invited to walk in the park

THOSE with an eagle-eye for bird-watching are invited to attend a Spring walk.

The Signs of Spring Walk takes place on May 31 at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge from 10am till 11.30am

11.30am. Bird and flower spotting and mini-beast hunting will take place. The walk is suitable for families and is free. Meet by the cafe at 10am. Book on (01384) 815490.

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Black Country a 'world beater', says Brexit boss

after we leave the European Union, says the Brexit Secretary. David Davis made the comments as he visited Thomas Dudley Ltd last week with Conservative Dudley North candidate Les Jones, as the Tories ramped up its campaigning in the target constituency.

The minister and candidate Mr Jones, a Pedmore and Stourbridge East councillor, toured the foundry on Birmingham New Road and met with some of the firm's 400 workers. They also spoke about Brexit with joint managing director Jason Parker.

Mr Davis said: "Brexit in a way is the foundation of what happens next. If we get, as we intend to, a

A CONSERVATIVE Government successful Brexit with a continued will get 'the right deal' with Europe to grow the Black Country's 'world beating' manufacturing industry markets – not membership – which after we leave the European Union, is frictionless with no tariffs and no good relationship with the Euro-pean Union and continued access to markets – not membership – which is frictionless with no tariffs and no

restrictions, that will underpin the whole economic effort."
He added: "This part of England is the engine of the United Kingdom, it always has been. For virtually most of the industrial revolution it has been the productive part and the machine was of the England in the second of the second of the industrial revolution it has been the productive part and the machine was of the Engine Was of the Eng chine room of the Empire. And today it is the same. What we are aiming to do is to encourage that, to allow it to develop and be a world beater like it has been for a century."

Dudley North has been a Labour seat since its creation in 1997 but

this time around is a top Conserva-tive target. Ian Austin is looking to retain the seat for Labour and Bill Etheridge is contesting it for UKIP.



David Davies, right, with Tory candidate Les Jones, centre, and Thomas Dudley's Jason Parker

112mph driver is jailed for 15 months

A DRIVER who reached speeds of up to 112mph in a bid to escape police has been jailed for 15 months. Luke Zarelli was at the wheel of a hired Mercedes C250 when he refused a police request to stop in Buffery Road, Dudley, on October 22.

on October 22.
Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that the 23-yearold from Bull Lane, Wombourne, led officers on an
eight-minute chase during which he ignored a red light
and hurtled through junctions. Mr Simon Burch, prosecuting, said that on Duncan Edwards Way the Mercedes

was clocked at speeds up to 112 mph.

Zarelli – the subject of a suspended jail sentence for cultivating cannabis – finally stopped and was arrested. A small amount of cannabis was found in the vehicle.

Mr Richard Davenport, defending, said: "He panicked when the police asked him to stop. He knew he was on a suspended sentence and realised he had cannabis in the car." Zarelli admitted dangerous diving and breaching. car." Zarelli admitted dangerous driving and breaching

his suspended sentence.

Judge Amjad Nawaz told him: "The fact that there was no accident was more by chance than design."

Five times more ops cancelled at hospital

erations at Russells Hall Hospital due to bed shortages last year – five times more than the year before, new figures reveal.

A total of 149 people had their scheduled procedures cancelled at the Dudley hospital last year. This increased from 29 in 2015.

It comes after hospital bosses revealed bed blocking had reached an 'all-time high' in March, due to delays in the

By Lucy Thompson

transfer of patients.

Dudley Group NHS
Trust, which manages the
hospital, revealed the latest figures after being asked in a Freedom of Information (FOI) request 'how many operations have been can-celled due to bed shortages

over the past three years.

The hospital replied with the figures, which also showed 81 operations were cancelled in 2014, but would not comment because of election time burden. election time purdah.

Number

December 2016 saw the biggest number of cancelled operations in one month from the past three years, totalling 47.

Out of the 149 cancelled operations last year, the hospital said 104 of the patients were operated on

nospital said 104 of the patients were operated on within 28 days of their pro-cedure being called off, 33 were operated on after 28 days and 12 were not oper-

days and 12 were not operated on.
In 2015, 23 patients out of the 29 were operated on within 28 days, five were operated on after 28 days and one did not how the properate. one did not have the opera-

In 2014 59 of the 81 were operated on within 28 days, 18 had their operation after 28 days and four were not

operated on.
Patients operated on 28 days or more from their original scheduled operation included some who had cho-sen to wait longer. Some had chosen not to

undergo procedures, while in other cases operations were no longer required, the trust said.

Dudley UKIP councillor Paul Brothwood said: "The NHS is really feeling the brunt of the cuts. I don't want to see any figures like that. Unless massive invest-ment is made, we should expect to see more cancellations.

"The key thing is where the money is spent – more needs to be invested in front

needs to be invested in front line services in hospitals to avoid the cancellations." At the end of January the trust said 682 out of 723 beds at the hospital were full, more than the 85 per cent, which NHS safety guidelines state should be the maximum.

Trafficking and child abduction charges

A BLACK Country man is among 29 people who will go on trial in relation to the sexual exploitation of children.

Twenty six men and two women face a total of 170 charges as part of a major police investigation.

They include Saqib Raheel, aged 30, of Stourbridge Road, Dudley, who is charged with trafficking and child abduction.

The majority of the accused are from Huddersfield in

The majority of the accused are from Huddersfield in West Yorkshire.

The defendants appeared at Leeds Crown Court where they were jeered by protesters outside the court building amid a large police presence.

The crimes are alleged to have taken place between 2004 and 2011, and relate to 18 women, who were children at the time. The youngest child involved was 11 years old.

Judge Peter Collier QC ruled that the cases will be heard in three separate trials starting in January.

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12Heritage lined by up for global recognition

THE Black Country bid to become a 'global geopark' has been bolstered by a positive recommendation from world heritage organisation UNES-CO.

At the start of 2016, the four Black Country councils – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – submitted an application to become part of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's global geopark network.

A geopark is described as 'an area of international significance that protects and promotes the geological and related industrial and cultural heritage for everyone to enjoy now and in the future'.

The geopark would link different heritage sites and features across the area to tell the story of the landscape.

In the case of the Black Country, the significant part it played in the Industrial Revolution is at the heart of the bid, alongside the minerals and other natural advantages that meant it could become it could happen.

Following a visit by UNESCO delegates in the summer of last year and a presentation to international and a presentation to international delegates at a conference, the Black Country has been recognised as globally important and having the necessary the attributes to become a global geopark To find out more visit black countrygeopark.org.uk

Grease is the word at rock 'n' roll musical

ROCK 'n' roll musical Grease will be coming to the stage in Birmingham. The ever-popular musical will be performed at the Birmingham Hip-podrome with Tom Parker, from boyband The Wanted, as Danny and Over The Rainbow winner Danielle Hone who recently angeaged in panto

Over The Kainbow winner Danielle Hope, who recently appeared in panto in Birmingham, as Sandy. It runs from May 29 until June 3. For details see birminghamhippo-drome.com website.

Huge court bill is slapped on seller of fake Ugg boots Bishop opens his patch of Paradise Mas, has been hit with a court fine arter being seems trademark violations. Scott Sutton, formerly of Newfield Road in Hagley, opened a unit in The Pavillions at Birmingham on Christmas Eve 2014 and lured customers in with branding identical to that used by the iconic Australian boot maker, plus an eye-catching 70 per cent discount offer.



The Rt Rev Graham Usher in his garden in Cradley Heath with Anna Gillespie, of Churches Housing Association

THE Bishop of Dudley opened his garden to visitors and raised more than £1,400 for two charities.

The Rt Rev Graham Usher welcomed people into the garden at The Bishop's House, Bishop's Walk, in Cradley Heath.

Visitors had the chance to explore the garden, enjoy refreshments and buy plants, vegetables and even a bug house for their own garden.

The event raised money for The Three Choirs' Festival and the Churches Housing Association of

Dudley and District, which provides the Dudley women's refuge. Bishop Graham said: "It was good to

welcome people to the garden at Bish-op's House and to celebrate the work of two excellent charities.

Generosity

"The hard work of all involved, and the generosity of so many people, made a wonderful day full of a sense of community spirit. Thank you to all who came along or contributed to help make the day such a success."

The garden was open to the public on Saturday.

Bishop Graham was ordained as fifth Bishop of Dudley in March 2014. He used to be chairman of the NorthEast Forestry and Woodlands Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission.

Over the last 90 years the popular National Open Garden Scheme has donated £50 million to charities across the UK.

To get involved or make a donation visit the website at www.ngs.org.uk

customers tricked into believing the

customers tricked into believing the boots were genuine. They included one 15-year-old girl who parted with her Christmas cash after being told by a sales assistant the boots were genuine but could be sold at knock-down prices as 'they weren't made at the real Ugg factory'.

Trading

Sutton was behind the till on De-cember 27, 2014, when police swooped and in interview claimed he hadn't

and in interview claimed he hadn't committed a criminal offence and that it was a matter for trading standards. However, West Midlands Police investigators made three charges of unauthorised trademark use against the 49-year-old. Sutton admitted the offences and at the committed of the committe

Sutton admitted the offences and at Birmingham Crown Court on May 2, was fined £5,000 and ordered to pay £980 in costs. He faces being jailed for three months if he fails to pay the fine. Police seized £7,000 in cash from Sutton's car while 100 pairs of Ugg best false was resourced from the

boot fakes were recovered from the

Sutton refused to name the supplier

tomers in with branding identical to that used by the iconic A boot maker, plus an eye-catching 70 per cent discount offer. He sold pairs at £50 each – all cash purchases as Sutton refused card payments – during a four-day sales spree before officers, acting on the concerns raised by a city centre PCSO, moved in to close the shop down. Inquiries were made with Ugg's brand protection and legal advisors – who confirmed the store wasn't legitimate – and officers traced several customers tricked into believing the **Woods patrol** volunteers are in demand

patrol a Black Country beauty spot at night time during the summer. Warley Woods Community Trust is now looking for extra people to patrol Warley Woods.

The voluntary roles would take place on summer evenings and people would be in pairs during the strolls. The trust already has patrols but don't currently have enough positions to cover every day of the week.

A spokesman for the trust said the patrols were to reassure the public that there was a 'presence' and to answer questions about the trust and the site. We can't currently cover all nights of the week and so are always the site. We can't currently cover all nights of the week and so are always looking for new recruits. You'd be paired with someone who has already done this. If you are interested in a regular weekly stroll, wearing trust hi-visibility clothing, then please let us know and we'll arrange a chat about it." about it.

To contact the trust, email kirsty mack87@gmail.com



Pupil's bravery inspires Snowdon trio



Ready for the gruelling Slateman challenge – sisters Charlotte and Faye Robbins and friend Lisa Hill

ON SUNDAY three Stourbridge women are heading to Snowdonia to take part in the Slateman, a full Olympic distance triathlon.

It includes a 1,000m open water swim, 54km cycle on the Llangollen path, and an 11km trail run on Mount Snowdon. They will be raising vital funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Sisters Charlotte and Faye Robbins, plus friend Lisa Hill, are all keen athletes and members of Stourbridge Rugby Club who have been fundraising and training since Christmas for this epic challenge.

Charlotte Robbins is a teacher at

Charlotte said: "Having seen first-hand the day-to-day struggle Morgan has suffered we wanted to do some-thing to help. The Teenage Cancer Trust has supported Morgan through this awful time as well thousands of other young people who show, day in day out, their extraordinary courage to heat this disease. beat this disease

"Put into context, Slateman seems

Hadley Learning Community where among her pupils is Morgan Murray, who was given the devastating news at the age of 14 that she had stage 2 that we are able to help children Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She is now in around the country in their on-going secretary that the country in their on-going secretary that the country in their on-going secretary. what Morgan has suffered, however, we hope it is a big enough challenge that we are able to help children around the country in their on-going battles. We would be really grateful for your support and generosity in our quest to become Slatewomen."

The girls have already raised over £1,400 via their Just Giving page, whilst a barbecue last weekend raised another £530.

To support the girls in their challenge donations can be made at www. justgiving.com/fundraising/snowdons-lateman2017

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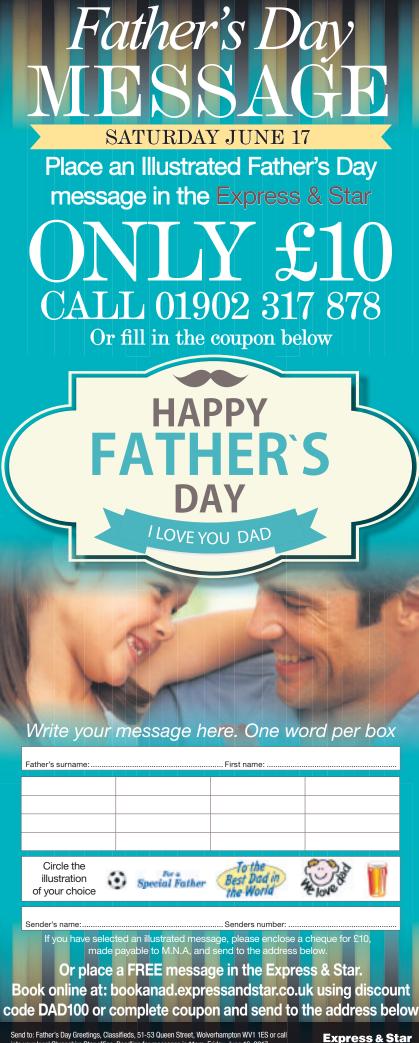
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Cardigan man who seemed so familiar

Jon Richardson Birmingham Hippodrome JON Richardson, Old Man. What's he like, eh? Coming out with a cardigan on and then removing it to reveal another? then removing it to reveal another?
He defines age, he tells us,

by what he wears and how he shops for it.

Oh, and shingles, of course. You don't get them unless you're of a certain

age. He also explained how he struggles to do more than one thing at a time, like watch the television and have a conversation, or move his shoulders and legs simultaneously while

Sentiment

There are many similari-There are many similarities between the comic and myself, such as stressing over trivial matters and a certain pernickety way of doing things, like tidying up as you go along, for example. In his world there is his

In his world there is his way of doing things, and there's the wrong way. A sentiment I found myself completely agreeing with! He seems less stressed as

ne seems less stressed as he gets older though, he told the Hippodrome crowd, de-spite the travails of father-hood.

The second half of the The second half of the show was dedicated to such matters, but he ended the first with a dig at trolls who abuse him on Twitter, simply because 'he solves a few anagrams and word puzzles'. But he says they immediately make him feel better about himself.

MARK SHIPP



All-rounder Smith proves more than just Funny Girl

Birmingham Hippodrome

THIS musical was always bound to be a success. With Sheridan Smith in the lead role it was a certainty.

role it was a certainty.

She can act, sing and dance, and at the end the packed audience at the Hippodrome was up on its feet the second she walked back on stage to take a bow.

And it was very well deserved. Smith's portrayal as the comedienne and entertainer of the early 1900s, Fanny Brice, who dazzled on stage but battled through private problems, was spot on.

She took the audience on the journey with her through the performing highlights tempered by sorrow in her personal life.

She was backed by a superb cast, includ-

She was backed by a superb cast, includ-ing her dapper husband Nick Arnstein played by platinum selling recording artist Darius Campbell and her mother, played

THEATRE REVIEWS

by Rachel Izen. She and her card-playing

by Ascher Izel. She and her card-playing friends were just ace.

Add to this the simple, but effective, staging, great costumes and superb dancing and this is a must-see. The story of the rising star Fanny is well-documented and made famous by the 60s film which starred Barbra Markers and the starred Barbra than 15 starred Barbra and the star

mous by the 60s film which starred Barbra Streisand. Any fears that Smith would be in her shadow were soon forgotten.

She seems to have the ability to play vastly different roles – in particular the harrowing Moorside which told the story of the kidnapping of Shannon Matthews and The More You Ignore Me, where she played a young mother with mental health issues – and mould herself perfectly into any role.

SUE ATTWATER

SUE ATTWATER

Roses help to brighten up venue

Kingswinford TG

CHAIRMAN Enid Fennel welcomed a visitor to the May meeting at the community centre and hoped she would enjoy the meeting. After the formal business of reading and signing the previous meeting's minutes, Mrs Fennel, in the absence of the club's delegate, read the report of The Federation AGM.

The group leaders an-

retation AGM.

The group leaders announced their forthcoming events. Enid then asked members to peruse their copies of Townswoman magazine, in order to discuss them at the June meeting before enjoying strawberries and cream.

Margaret Whitfield was thanked for bringing roses from her garden to brighten the room.

the room

The quiz team made arrangements for pick-up times to the football club venue and Enid wished them good luck on behalf of the members. the members.

the members.

She then introduced Ron Gallivan who gave a thought provoking talk entitled Iron Maidens, a fascinating account of how well planned the conscription of women was conducted during the Second World War and how the weather was a conducted was a conducted with results were a conducted to the second world was a conducted with results was a conducted wit and how the results were very successful. They had long lasting effects too, in the fact that it now became more acceptable for married women to go out to work and it also brought pressure on the case for women to receive equal pay for equal work. He was thanked Chris Moy.

thanked Chris Moy. Raffle prizes were won by Ann Rogers and Sylvia Taylor.

the subject of talk Fitting way to take

Body matters form

regular exercise

ACCORDING to the television and the Press, we all spend far too much time sitting in front of the television or computers. This could lead to an increased risk of heart problems due to the lack of exercise, it is said.

It is also said that this lack of exercise, an increase the risk of diabetes and could possibly be a cause of many brain disorders. This is especially important for older people but reducing the chances of these problems occurring can easily be achieved by taking gentle and regular exercise by walking.

The Dudley Senior Ramblers

A happy and friendly group of men and women.

Meetings take place on alternate Wednesdays at 10.45am for a programme of varied walks of approximate of a varied walks of approximate of varied walks of approximate of the copy with undulating terrain and climbing stiles by taking gentle and regular exercise by walking.

The Dudley Senior Ramblers

A certain amount of fitness in access the copy with undulating terrain and climbing these. Of one work way to and able to make your by and from the start points for the walks which are no more than beautiful to the fresh air, and helping them, in the company of like-minded people, to enjoy regular exercise out in the fresh air, and helping them to stay as fit and as healthy as possible.

Newcomens will be guaranteed a warm welcome by

STOURBRIDGE Ladies Soci STOURBRIDGE Ladies Soci-ety held their first meeting in the Amblecote Room at Stour-bridge Town Hall, following its move from St Thomas's Church Hall.

The Speaker at the meeting was Ms Pat Green and the subject 'Body Matters'.

The audience was told of the need to look after themselves

need to look after themselves no matter whatever their age. Some things, such as inher-ited genes, cannot be changed. If there is a known tendency towards ill health, being fore-warned means something can be done to improve a pressure. be done to improve a person's health. What we can do is to

A good diet was encouraged, allowing for clearer skin, bet-ter weight control and preventing or controlling diseases such as Type 2 diabetes. Ex-ercise is essential to maintain muscle tone. It keeps the body physically young, helps joint disease, burns calories and in-creases the metabolic rate.

The meeting then finished with a raffle and a cup of tea. Anyone is welcome to meetings for interesting talks and friendship. The next one is on Tuesday, May 30 and will feature a quiz and poetry readings. For more information ings. For more information call 01384 28841.

Join club for knit and natter

WOLLASTON Knitters meet on the first Wollaston Knitters and third Tuesday of each month at 6.45pm in St James's Church Hall, Wollaston, Stourbridge

Members knit and natter, and newcomers

are always most welcome.

At the moment, the ladies are knitting twiddle muffs and trauma teddies for charroom hire.

, along with their own usual items. For ther information contact Brenda on further inform 07474 719730.

A small charge of £2 is made to cover the

Top comedians for a summer of laughter

and Tom Stade are coming to Brierley Hill Civic Hall this

to Brierley Hill Civic Hall this summer.

Popular Canadian stand-up Stade, who used to live in Bilston, will top the bill at the latest Live At The Civic on Saturday, June 24.

He will replace America's Got Talent winner Paul Zerdin, who is currently in the US and has been forced to withdraw due to other compilitions.

rently in the US and has been forced to withdraw due to other commitments. Stade will be supported on the night by Black Country favourite Doreen Tipton and The Noise Next Door, widely regarded as the best comedy improv troupe in the country. Dudley comic Wayne Beese will host the show. More than 600 tickets have already been snapped up. Wayne said: "We are naturally disappointed that Paul has withdrawn from the show. Havine sold

withdrawn from the show. Having sold so many tickets already, we pulled out all the stops to bring in a replacement that people would be happy with.

Doreen

"We feel we have done that with Tom Stade. He is one of the most pop-ular stand-ups in the country and one of the very best. With Doreen and The Noise Next Door as well, we have a line-up that will rival anywhere in the land on that night."

Meanwhile, TV comic Ross Noble is to headline a hur pickt of complete.

to headline a huge night of comedy at Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Friday, July

Brierley Hill Civic Hall on Friday, July 14, as a showpiece event of this year's Black Country Festival.

The Geordie funny man, who has appeared on TV shows including Live At The Apollo, Have I Got News For You and QI, will be supported by local favourite, Jonny Cole, Darren Harriott from Oldbury and Mike Crump, from Dudley, with Wayne Beese as MC.

To book, or for further information, visit www.bhillcivic.co.uk/whats-on/comedy





Shoplifter threatened staff

AN HABITUAL criminal who was banned from Dudley town centre has been jailed after being caught shop-lifting.

Samantha Walker stole meat from the Asda branch on High Street, Dud-ley, and cheese from a Spar shop in Gornal.

Gornal.

By going into Asda on March 31,
Walker, aged 26, was also breaching
her town centre ban.

She was also seen in the town centre
on April 14 and April 18 and was sub-

told.

The court heard when she went into the Spar on April 15, she told staff she had HIV and threatened to stab them with a 'dirty needle'.

Walker, of Kingford Rise, Upper Gornal, pleaded guilty to two counts of theft and three counts of breaching a criminal behaviour order.

She was iailed for six months and

She was jailed for six months and ordered to pay costs of £115.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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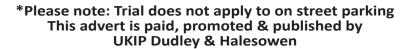
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Unit 14, Long Lane Trading Estate, Long Lane, Halesowen B62 9LD www.halesowenfireplaces.co.uk National Express said the trial of cheaper fares on buses around the boroughs had led to enough extra passengers to drive increased revenues on those routes. That was despite the company's bus division as a whole seeing revenues fall by 0.5 per cent in the first four months of 2017.

The biggest cut in adult fares – at 35 per cent – affected the Sandwell and Dudley low fare zone day ticket which fell from £4.60 to £3 in February. The children's ticket was cut by more than 50 per cent from £3.10 to £1.50.

An adult weekly travelcard for journeys

to £1.50. An adult weekly travelcard for journeys inside the zone fell from £15.70 to £11, and a child's weekly travelcard from £8.75 to £5.50.

National Express said it would 'extend the lessons from these early successes fur-ther across the West Midlands'.

ther across the West Midlands'. Elsewhere, the transport giant saw its overall revenue from continuing operations rise by 5.4 per cent. Revenue in its coach division, which runs services to major cities, grew by 2.7 per cent. Chief executive Dean Finch said: "I am pleased we have maintained our strong momentum into 2017, driven by both organic growth and the benefit of our recent acquisitions."

Cyber firm bought as deal is struck

A BLACK Country technology company has been bought by a leading UK cybersecurity group. Cygnia Technologies, based at Black Country House in Oldbury, has now become part of the SecureData group, based in Maidenhead. The price tag on the deal has not been revealed but all staff have

deal has not been revealed but an stail have kept their jobs.

For the 2016 calendar year Cygnia reported sales of circa £9 million. As well as its Oldbury office the firm, operating since 2007, has a base in central London. It employs around two dozen people.



Ugo Ehiogu in his Villa kit



Mourners attend the funeral of footballer Ugo Ehiogu



The hearse carrying Ugo on his final journey



A minute's applause for Ugo at Aston Villa during a match last month



Emotional speech for Ugo

gate gave an emotional speech at the funeral of his former team-mate Ugo Ehiogu.

Ehiogu died aged 44 after suffering a cardiac arrest on April 20 at Tottenham's training ground, where he worked as a coach with their under-23 side.

The service for the former England, Aston Villa and Middlesbrough defender was held

at St Michael's Church in Highgate, before a wake at Alexandra Palace.

Ehiogu's one-time Villa team-mate and the best man at his wedding, Dwight Yorke, helped carry his coffin into the church, where Gareth Southgate spoke about the 'fussiness' for which Ehiogu was fondly remembered.

Others present included Middlesbrough team-mates Paul Ince, George Boateng and Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink, Villa colleagues Andy Townsend and Ian Taylor, as well as for-

Your Chronicle

 mer managers Ron Atkinson, Steve McClaren and Brian Little.

Little, who managed Ehiogu for four years at Villa until 1998, said: "Gareth Southgate spoke unbelievably well about him, about some of the funny things about him.

"Ugo was very fussy with his food. Gareth hit on how he would order something off the menu, but he'd want it without that, without that and done

fortennam were also represented by retired defender Ledley King and fellow former play-ers Les Ferdinand, Tim Sherwood, Gary Mab-butt and Spurs' legendary Irish goalkeeper Pat Jennings, in addition to numerous youth-team players and chairman Daniel Levy

Ron Atkinson signed Ehiogu for Villa from West Brom, and he said: "He loved defending, something that's gone out of the game.

"He just used to come in every day and get on with it."



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WOLVERHAMPTON

Alf recalls the day he was shot by a Nazi in Normandy

in hand on the frontline in Normandy, Private Alf Dimmock felt 'something whistle past' his arm.

Moments later the teenager felt a

moments are the teenger let a piercing pain as a Nazi bullet ripped through his wrist – putting him on a boat home where he spend three months recovering from his wound. He had been involved in the D-Day liberation of France for less than a week but bears the scar to this day.

week but bears the scar to this day.
At the age of 91, has received
France's highest honour for his
bravery. Alf, from Quarry Bank, has
been presented with the prestigious
Legion d'Honneur for service during
the Second World War.
Alf saw action across Europe,
Egypt and Palestine during his
three years in the Army. On June
8, 1944, Private Dimmock landed on
Sword beach in Normandy with the

Six days into the campaign, Mr Six days into the campaign, Mr Dimmock found himself fighting in the Battle of Villers-Bocage against the German defences to the west of the city of Caen. But before Alf even had a chance to fire his weapon he was wounded.

He said: "The bullet went through

one side of my right wrist and out the other

the other."

Despite repeated attempts from friends and Quarry Bank Royal British Legion, he refuses to visit any of the places he served in. "I've seen more than enough of them," he quipped.

Alf married Hilda in 1952 but has



Alf Dimmock, 91, who received his Legion D'honneur medal, is congratulated by young relative Darcey Dunn

issued over dog dirt

MORE than 200 dog fouling fines have been handed out in Sandwell over the last three years. Dog owners have been caught leaving their pets' dirt

across the borough since 2014, bringing in thousands of pounds to Sandwell Council. The data was revealed by the local authority following a Freedom Of Information

A total of 207 fines were handed out across the bor-

A total of 207 fines were handed out across the borough's six towns of Oldbury, Rowley Regis, Smethwick, Tipton, Wednesbury and West Bromwich.

The council has earned at least £15,525 from the penalties. Sandwell Council has set its fines for dog fouling to £75, according the council's website.

Smethwick had the highest number of fines handed out, with 66 penalties issued to dog walkers across 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. West Bromwich came second with 37 fines followed by Tipton and Rowley Regis in joint. 37 fines, followed by Tipton and Rowley Regis in joint third on 33, Oldbury came in fourth with 23 fines and Wednesbury in fifth with 15 fines.

Sandwell Council launched a campaign to tackle dog

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Quality of teaching at nursery 'variable'

A NURSERY has been told it needs to improve following a visit by Ofsted inspectors.

Tiger Lily Day Nursery, in Halesowen, has been rated as 'requires improvement' in all areas following an inspection by the education watchdog.

Concerns were flagged up about the quality of teaching.

Inspectors also said checks required to monitor some children's progress were not being made

Teaching was described as 'variable' while Ofsted also reported weaknesses in leadership and management. It has left the nursery, on Lutley Green, with

the second-lowest rating.

The nursery had previously received a 'good' rating following an Ofsted inspection two years earlier.

Ofsted, in its latest report, stated: "Leaders do

Ofsted, in its latest report, stated: "Leaders do not check the progress of children within the nursery and so have not identified where more help and support is required to close gaps in children's learning."

Attainment

Attainment
Inspectors also noted
'some children's level of
attainment is not what is
expected for their age and
stage of development'.
The site visit took place
on April 11.
Ofsted also picked out
positive aspects of the nursery, stating that the staff
were kind and caring and
develop 'close bonds' with
children. Youngsters were
described as well-behaved.
Safeguarding measures
were also judged to be effective.
However, the education
regulator felt there was

By Richard Guttridge

room for improvement The report added: "The man-ager has not ensured that staff are aware of the requirement to carry out the progress check for children aged between two and three

"The manager carries out "The manager carries out staff supervision meetings. However, these arrange-ments are not effective enough to address weak-nesses in staff practice and ensure that all children benefit from a consistently good

level of teaching."

It continued: "The quality of teaching is variable. For example, during group story time in the pre-school room, staff do not provide oppor-tunities for children to offer suggestions and opinions.

"Children try to discuss the characters and the story afterwards but are told to get ready for outside play.
"Not all children make

good progress.

"They do, however, steadily develop some skills

needed for their move on to school."
The nursery declined to

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CORONA LARGE SOLID PINE SIDEBOARD

OAK EFFECT LARGE 3 DOOR SIDEBOARD EX DISPLAY



A CIRCLE dancing session will be held at a Black Country library on Saturday.

The event is the final one to take place at Halesowen Library as part of a week-long series to raise awareness of dementia. The circle dancing session runs from 2pm to 3pm at the library. Anyone is welcome to join in.

Librarian Cara Evans said: "Libraries in Dudley have a Librarian Cara Evans said: Libraries in Dudiey have a wide range of resources to support people living with dementia. They include reminiscence packs, jigsaws, replica newspapers and other activities which can be used to stimulate conversation and memories. Halesowne Library also has a Dementia Corner, where anyone can sit and use the resources or choose items to borrow

Dancing at the library

to highlight resources

Places at the session need to be bookede. There is a £2 charge for circle dancing. To book, or for more information, call Ms Evans on (01384) 815555 or email cara.evans@dud ley.gov.uk

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CLEARANCE

Wooden it be nice to turn profit in saleroom?

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES





WE'VE talked a great deal in this column about the merits of gold, silver and precious stones - but never before about a much more humble material - namely wood!

But many wooden items are proving very collectable

and therefore selling well in the saleroom.

Everything from decorated wooden spoons to vintage wood carvings, all are popular with the bidders.

Prices of wooden items depend on style, age and condition and on the quality of decoration on carved

Of course there are many different woods used and again this will affect the price – and if all the depress-ing news broadcast recently about the imminent demise of ash trees is taken on board then items made from this wood will soon prove very collectable indeed. So let's start with some of the smaller items, such

as those used in the kitchens and dining rooms of yes-

Look out for Victorian sycamore ladles (you might Look out for victorian sycamore ladies (you might find one that is actually dated), spice pots, fruitwood bowls and trays made from mahogany or satinwood – decorated trays and those with brass handles prove especially valuable. Tea caddies are extremely collectable to a way or



collectable, tea was a luxury product many years ago and caddies were produced of excel-lent quality in which to store it.

Carved oak or walnut candlesticks look lovely in any home, some fea-ture very lovely and in-tricate decoration.

For your bedroom you could find mahogany jewellery boxes, olivewood lace boxes, vanity cases complete with silver-topped bottles

silver-topped bottles and even an old bonnet stand, and for the bathroom you can buy some lovely old wooden towel rails for reasonable prices. Many people choose vintage items for their home studies or offices and pieces such as rosewood magnifying glasses, carved inkwells and Victorian deed boxes would com-

As with all antiques, check for cracks, chips and signs of wear and tear before you buy – but remember that wooden pieces are relatively inexpensive to get professionally repaired.

Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am. The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, June 6. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from

- New sale bidders are advised to attends the saleroom early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month

So much out there for 'neutral' baby clothing



Cuddle blankets are cute in beige

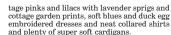
THIS week I became a grandma for the first time, our little bundle of joy was born three weeks early and was a healthy little girl. Mum and Dad had not wanted to know the sex beforehand and had kept the nursery and baby goodies in completely neutral colours.

I have thoroughly enjoyed looking at the delightful baby clothes available and pleasantly surprised by the amount of design put into these tiny items.

There are stunning ivory, beige, coffee, and pale grey garments printed with teddy bear faces and animal appliques, stars, spots and moons. Co-ordinating muslin cloths, towels and soft fleece blankets, even dribble bibs, scratch mitts and tiny socks carry detailed prints and colour. There was in fact less blue prints and colour. There was in fact less blue and pink than I had expected and highlights were soft orange, lime and lemon. 2017 sees tiny garments sporting tropical fruits such as melon and pineapple in bright

rruts such as meion and pineappie in oright sunny colours, colourful parrots and mosaic birds on white backgrounds. Graphic ani-mals for boys and girls include crocodiles, elephants and giraffes of many types. Mon-ochrome black and whites, eco neutrals, vin-

FOCUS



and plenty of super soft cardigans.

Applique features strongly, 3D teddy bear heads, faces and flowers, ears on hoods and hats and elaborate detailed pockets. Traditional polo shirts for the boys and coloured "broiderie anglaise" frills for the girls. See http://www.jojomamanbebe.co.uk for some unusual designs and shapes with a European feel. Look at www.zara.com and www.next.co.uk for some great sleepsuits and accessories and www.dior.com for lovely traditional

totuk for some great steepsatts and accessories and www.dior.com for lovely traditional baby pyjamas and daywear.

The supermarkets offer fabulous value for money items and TK Maxx is well worth a visit too, little ones growing out of the garments before they can wear them more than

Sleep sacks are fashionable, printed with primary stripes, colourful splodges and farm animals, made from the finest cool cottons, cuddle fleece blankets are just the softest ever and crib bottom sheets are velvety fine jerseys. Vintage quilting and knitted comforters are popular handmade items for the new addition and with the popularity of crafts there is sure to be knitted, crocheted and hand sewn gifts.

Teddy bears are available in every possible

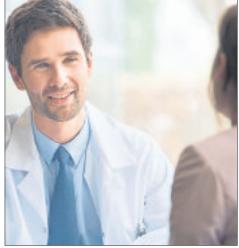
Teddy bears are available in every possible colour, with adorable faces. Checked, knitted and memory bears made from baby's first baby grow. Cuddle cloths are ever popular, easier for baby to hold and topped with cute animal heads and little brushed toys made to fit the tiny hands intended to hold them. Nothing is more wonderful than that tiny face peering up from the cot dressed in a crisp little sleep suit printed "I love my mummy and daddy".

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Stress and anxiety can lead to further health problems - or be a sign that you need to slow down and seek help

Stress and anxiety can you tell the difference?



If you are concerned seek help from your GP

STRESS and anxiety are on Report by Ella Walker the rise, but how do you tell them apart?

Stress is a normal part of life, and everybody will experience a sense of anxiety from time to time – but both these things can also be signs of mental health problems, or an indication that we possibly need to slow down

or seek some support.

But how do you tell them apart?
They can feel and exhibit themselves in a similar manner.

So if you're confused as to whether you're stressed or anxious, here are some key simp to look out for some key signs to look out for..

HOW TO SPOT STRESS

In the simplest terms, stress scaused by a specific factor, or stressor" – for example, a major life

change.

This can include any situation, event or scenario that makes you feel angry, frustrated, humiliated, nervous etc.

For example, moving house, starting a new job, a big meeting or exam you haven't prepped for, your mother-in-law has invited herself for

These are actualities that directly raise are actualities that directly cause you stress, usually because you feel unprepared for them, over-whelmed, or are struggling to find a way to deal with them. Everyone gets stressed now and

Everyone gets stressed now and again.

It's a normal response to situations that frighten or worry you (which are different for everybody), but over time, if you are under constant amounts of stress, it can cause beatly meruical. health worries.

health worries.

Common symptoms (according to the NHS) include feeling irritable, fearful, low self-esteem, in decision, difficulty concentrating, headaches, dizziness, tiredness, appetite changes, short-tempered, racing-thoughts, physical tension

HOW TO SPOT ANXIETY

Anxiety can manifest itself even when you don't have something stressful to link it to, and instead, tends to present as an ongoing feeling of unease, or a sense of impending doom.

It's normal to feel a bit anxious or washed for exercision.

ing doom.

It's normal to feel a bit anxious or worried, for example, in scenarios that make you feel apprehensive,

your boss, bungee jumping etc. However, excessive anxiety – or

However, excessive anxiety – or generalised anxiety disorder – where you worry disproportionately and often without an obvious trigger, can severely disrupt day-to-day life.

Common symptoms (according to the NHS) are restlessness, sense of dread, feeling on edge, lack of concentration, feeling irritable, dizziness tiredness musels aches feet ness, tiredness, muscle aches, fast heartbeat, trembling and shaking, dry mouth, headaches, sweating, shortness of breath, nausea, pins and needles HOW THEY'RE LINKED

Stress and anxiety often share symptoms, from tiredness and dizziness, to muscle aches and headaches, and both are connected to the fight

and both are connected to the igni-or-flight response, and neither are remotely enjoyable.

However, both conditions can be eased with the right treatment, from mindfulness and relaxation methods to release pressure and minimise stress, to medication and talking therapies for anxiety. If you are struggling or concerned about how anxious or stressed you're

feeling, always speak to your GP.









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Inspiration from abroad at Chelsea



THERE'S a feast of foreign florals at this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show, with influences from all over the globe – from

China to Spain, Malta and Mexico.
While traditionally show gardens have gone for soft blues, subtle lilacs, creams and whites in their colour schemes, this year some designers are going for bolder hues of deep purple and

burnt orange.

Here are some of the forthcoming Chelsea gardens inspired from further afield:

burnt orange.

Here are some of the forthcoming Chelsea gardens inspired from further afield:

THE CHENGDU SILK ROAD GARDEN

This Chinese-inspired creation (pictured) is the biggest of the main show gardens and will be a showstopper, with its dramatic "Silk Road" bridge linking different elements, displaying some of the many plant species found in Sichuan Province, one of the most florally rich and diverse regions in the world.

THE MAG GARDEN

This garden, designed by James Basson, will feature a range of planting including grasses, trees, heathers, evergreens and flowers, to show how to rejuvenate hard mineral spaces in the extreme. Inspired by an abandoned Maltese quarry, there are monumental blocks of limestone, planted with grasses, evergreens, perennials and ground cover unique to the arid Mediterranean island. Yellow will feature heavily as it is the predominant colour of flowering plants in the Maltese spring.

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

An array of tropical planting is housed in this sharp, contemporary architectural garden, which mimics an active volcanic landscape reminiscent of Bermuda and the Caribbean. Four sections of laser-cut aluminium sheeting house vibrant planting, while purple and red LED lights strikingly illuminate the sections and a central palm.

LED lights strikingly illuminate the sections that tral palm.

THE ROYAL BANK OF CANADA GARDEN

Designed by Charlotte Harris, this show garden is inspired by the vast and ecologically vital boreal forest and freshwater lakes of Canada. The theme of the planting is led by the look and feel of the Canadian Boreal, featuring pines, larches and birch, with a natural-feel shrub under-storey.

Part shady woodland perennials to the rear of the garden give way to sunny planting reminiscent of that found along the rocky lake and river edges of the Boreal.

:: The RHS Chelsea Flower at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, runs from May 23 to 27.
For details, visit www.rhs.org.uk

Play out with grandkids

BRITAIN is well known for being a nation of garden lovers – the over 50s are perhaps the keenest gardeners of all – but they are just as likely to be playing with their grandchildren this summer.

Almost a third (32 per cent) have little ones over to play outdoors at least once a month, according to research by Saga Home Insurance. Grandparents from the North East are most likely to have grandchildren playing in their garden more than once a week (19 per cent) closely followed by grandparents in Yorkshire, Scotland (both 16 per cent) and the North West (15 per cent).

per cent).

While we are often told that young people aren't While we are often told that young people aren't getting enough exercise these days, the over 50s are championing good old fashioned play time by making sure the grandchildren get a decent gulp of fresh air whilst playing in paddling pools, on slides or in sandpits. In fact more than a quarter (27 per cent) of over 50s with grandchildren own some form of outdoor play equipment from the more common swing-ball sets to the more unusual putting greens and croquet lawns.

It's also clear that the over 50s like to make sure their green havens are beautifully decked out with almost half (49 per cent) admiring feathered friends in bird baths, one fifth (20 per cent) owning a BBQ or pizza oven and almost one in ten (eight per cent) staying one-step ahead of the British weather with a gazebo. After the grandchildren have gone home you might find some of the 880,000 over 50s who own hot tubs or hammocks taking a well-earned break.



Ornamental onions that Dring a splash of purple BEST OF THE BUNCH - Allium THESE late-spring early-summer lollipop flowers appear in shades of purple and white and make a great accent planted at intervals in borders. They are actually ornamental onions and can reach heights of up to 1.8m depending on the type. Bulbs should be planted in the autumn in a sheltered, sunny, well-drained site which won't get waterlogged. Their leaves become straggly before the blooms appear, so it's best to plant them with other plants whose foliage will mask the unsightly leaves. Good varieties include A. "Globemaster" and "Purple Sensation". GOOD TO EAT - Harvesting asparagus bed which has been going for more than two years, you should now be harvesting delicious spears to steam and serve with hollandaise, or just on their own as a vegetable accompaniment that goes well with fish. Spears can be cut about 2.5cm under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when were appeared and the produce their flowers on shoots that formed last under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when were appeared to the produce their flowers on shoots that formed last under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when we are appeared to the produce their flowers on shoots that formed last under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when we are appeared to the produce their flowers on shoots that formed last under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when we have a produce their flowers on shoots that formed last under the soil for six weeks from mid April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when we have a produce their flowers on shoots that formed and the produce their flowers on shoots that formed last the produce their flowers on shoots that formed and the plant of the produce their flowers on shoots that formed and the produce their flowers on shoots that formed and the produc

April. For the best pickings, cut the spears when they are about 18cm tall. With a new asparagus bed, avoid harvesting the spears for the first two years to allow the crop to establish.

Continue to deadhead spring-flowering bulbs.
 Start to buy tender summer bedding now if you have somewhere to keep them protected.
 Clear blanket weed and duck weed from ponds.

Darling buds in full bloom during marvellous May

ROSS **UNDERWOOD**



"Straws like tame lightnings lie

about the grass And hang zigzag on hedges. Green

The water in the horsetrough shines.

Nine ducks go wobbling by in two straight lines."

WHAT a profusion of flowers and foliage that this month brings. May can be the kindest month for

a gardener. The ground is warming up and it seems as though anything that you put in the ground will grow. In truth though you should take advantage of the benevolent conditions while they last. Any plant that you put in will need irrigating over the sum-

in will need irrigating over the summer to stop it drying out.
When it comes to trying to pick out particular plant stars at this time of year is that there are so many. I am a huge fan of poppies and I grow many of the big blue Himalayan types with a great deal of mollycoddling. But if you look around under shrubs, or peeking out of stone walls there are the cheery yellow or orange blooms of Meconopsis cambrica, the Welsh Poppy. They have fine papery petals above small rosettes of divided foliage. Once you have them in your garden then they will often seed themselves around pleasantly filling in nooks and crannies without becoming a nuisance.

seed themselves around pleasantly filling in nooks and crannies without becoming a nuisance.

Another happy little filler for a sunny or shady spot is Tellima grandiflora which is a saxifrage relative that send up spires of pale greenish white flowers about 30cm tall from its rootstock. Again it is happy in sun or shade though it does go will with emerging fern fronds or the low foliage of late season perennials. It needs cutting back once it has done its thing and will produce a new cluster of leaves for the rest of the year.

Looking further down towards soil level Phlox divaricata is a North American plant which grows in clearings or at the edge of woodland where it can colonise large areas. I use it beneath large shrubs where it makes an excellent low growing ground cover. The flowers are quite large compared to the foliage and come in shades of pink, white or blue often with a pleasing scent. It is a tough customer and you might forget it was ever there by summer but it will be back next year as sure as sunshine.

Growing up the wall is one of my favourite climbing plants. Wisteria is often associated with more aristocratic gardens where large houses have high walls the better to contain what can be a rampant grower. Yet with the correct summer and winter pruning regime they can be fairly well contained. Your reward will be long racemes of flowers stretching over a foot long. Wisteria is a member of the pea family and this is clearly revealed in the shape of the flowers.



Malus trees are good news for people growing apples - and for birds seeking food, according to Ross



Wisteria sinensis is one of Ross's favourite varieties



The 'cheery yellow' Welsh poppy is making an appearance

Wisteria sinensis is my favourite. It has wisteria sinelisis is my ravourite. It has purplish blue flowers which the most delicious honey scent. Often, in August, it will produce a second flush of shorter racemes. Wisteria floribunda 'Alba' is an exceptionally elegant relevant and while I have found it less powerfully scented it does make a striking climber striking climber.

While the cherries are fading another group of flowering trees is taking over. Malus, or crab apples, are very floriferous

small to medium growing trees for the most sman to mending growing trees for the lost part. They make excellent pollination part-ners for dessert and culinary apples and the fruit can be use in cooking or provide a welcome food for birds. Malus transitoria is an upright growing tree which produces masses of white flowers from pink buds. By autumn it will have masses of small yellow

There is plenty to see in May. Hodnet Hall Gardens will be open throughout until

the end of September on every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday from noon till 5pm.

"I lie, not thinking, in the cool, sod

Afraid of where a thought might take

me – as
This grasshopper with plated face
U folds his legs and finds himself in

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Start saving young to get most out of pension pot

THE drive to encourage workplace pension saving has put many people in charge of their future retirement income.

But how much should you be saving if you want to keep up the kind of lifestyle you're enjoying now? While even

want to keep up the kind of lifestyle you're enjoying now?

While everyone's needs are different, consumer group Which? has undertaken research that sheds some light on the issue.

A survey of more than 1,500 retired couples found, on average, retired couples aid they needed £18,000 a year to cover household essentials – such as food, utilities, transport and housing costs.

But for a slightly more comfortable lifestyle which allows for extras such as European holidays and leisure activities, they needed an annual income of £26,000.

The consumer group calculates that to generate an annual income of £26,000, a couple would need a defined contribution pot of £210,000 in today's money alongside their current state pension entitlement.

Based on current retirement ages and state pension entitlements, to generate a £26,000 annual income Which? calculates couples starting saving from scratch need to be saving between them:

11313 a month if they start from aged 20

11338 a month from 30

11438 a month from 50

Fancy a "luxurious" retirement? To achieve this, couples need to build a pot of £550,000, the research found.

To build such

To build such a pot, couples could need to save between them:

:: £283 a start from aged 20

:: £424 a month from 30 :: £731 a month from 40 :: £1.657 month from 50

The calcu-lations make certain assumptions – and as such they are an indication of what people might need to save to achieve the sort of lifestyle they expect rather than a

achieve the sort of lifestyle they expect rather than a precise prescription.

While some of the figures may look a little daunting, they do show why it's a good idea to start the savings habit young – especially if you're hoping to spend your retirement sipping cocktails by a pool.

Encouragingly, the figures also show that even if you're starting to save later in life, it is still at least possible to build up a decent-sized pot.

Which? has a free online guide at which co.uk/saveforretirement to help people plan their retirement saving. Free guidance is also available to those nearing retirement from the Government-backed Pension Wise service.

retirement from the Government-backed Pension Wise service.

So how can you boost your chances of hitting your retirement income target?

According to Kate Smith, head of pensions at Aegon, pension saving should be seen as a habit, not a chore. She says: "An annual income of £26,000 is achievable provided people start saving early. Savings from both partners also have the added bonus of an employer contribution via their workplace pension twice over.

"Realistically, few people will be in a long-term relationship from the age of 20, so it's important that they take personal responsibility and realise that the buck stops with them when it comes to pension savings.

"The key to building a good retirement pot lies in what you do in the early years to make pension saving a habit and not a chore."

TOP TIPS... TO REACH YOUR

RETIREMENT SAVINGS TARGET

Here are some tips from Kate Smith of Aegon:

:: Don't delay. Start saving as early as possible. Make a plan, including all your pensions and savings.

:: Don't opt out of your workplace pension. Save enough to maximise your employer's pension contribution.

:: Work out how much you've saved in pensions and ether savings vou've targeted for retirement such as

bution.

:: Work out how much you've saved in pensions and other savings you've targeted for retirement, such as Isas.

:: Get a state pension forecast online - gov.uk/check-state-pension. Make the most of online tools and calculators to work out how much you need to save.

:: Regularly review your plan, your pension and savings accounts. This is especially important for women returning to work from maternity leave and those whose children have reached school age, when nursery and childcare costs are no longer an expense.

:: Consider getting professional financial advice.

and childcare costs are no longer an expense.

:: Consider getting professional financial advice.

NEW CASH MACHINE APP

A cash machine locator app showing where all the Link network's 70,000 ATMs are in the UK has been launched. The app is accessible for visually impaired people and uses voiceover technology and enables people looking for their nearest ATM to filter the results to suit their needs.



Cut down on food waste and save yourself a packet

Report by Kate Whiting

IF you're guilty of binning leftovers or mouldy old veg from the bottom of the fridge you never got around to cooking, you're not alone.

According to research by Sainsbury's for its Waste Less, Save More campaign, an incredible seven million tonnes of food is wasted by UK house-badde and the sain of the sain o holds each year, of which 4.2 million tonnes is completely avoidable. The good news is, by following some simple steps, we can all save money and help

save the environment.

save the environment.

Sainsbury's discovered the main reasons for shoppers wasting food and have suggested the following top tips to avoid falling into these trans. into these traps...

DON'T COOK TOO MUCH

contest found that 41 J

The supermarket found that 41 per cent of people waste because they cook too much. what to do

:: Portion control: Stick to the recom-mended serving sizes listed on packaging. If you do over-cook, freeze the leftovers for

another day. :: Give away, don't throw away: If :: Give away, don't throw away: If there is perfectly good food at risk of going in the bin, why not ask your neighbour if they'd like it, or donate it to a food bank? OLIO is a free app that connects neighbours to their local shops so that surplus food can be showed.

:: Get creative: Make delicious snacks and even full meals with leftovers you would ordinarily have thrown away. Creating everything from soups to tacos, burritos to biryanis, there are great ways to love

your leftovers. REMEMBER WHAT'S IN YOUR FRIDGE

A quarter of people throw away food because they forget they have it, according to Sainsbury's. So...

:: Juice it: Fruit and veg don't have to be thrown away just because they've gone a little soft. Throw fruit into a smoothie, and wilting veg into soups. Or combine both in textribines that are guren bealthy.

:: Take a shelfie: Simply photographing the contents of your fridge before you leave the house could stop you overbuying

Ing the contents of your rindge better you leave the house could stop you overbuying in-store.

BE BEST-BEFORE SAWY

Sainsbury's found 19 per cent of us are confused by best-before and use-by dates. Here's a reminder...

:: Use-by: This date is about safety and the most important date to remember. Foods can be eaten (and most can be frozen) up until the 'use by' date, but not after.

:: Best-before: This refers to the quality and taste. The food is most likely safe to eat after this date but may not be at its best for flavour and texture. You can't beat looking, smelling and tasting for a reliable indicator of freshness.







More than half of the country's 7 million tonnes of food waste is avoidable

START PLANNING MEALS

START PLANNING MEALS
Only 29 per cent of people prepare a meal
plan. Here's how to make one..
Dedicate 20 minutes of your week to
checking what's in the fridge and cupboards, and creating a meal plan for the
week shead

Choose meals that use similar ingredients to avoid waste. For example, make a

ing and cooking food.

:: Use it all: Often by-products of cooking can be turned into something delicious.

Caddies get filled up with leftovers and unused food

chicken and vegetable soup on Monday and use the leftover veg in your shepherd's pie on Thursday.

MANAGE YOUR WASTE

According to Sainsbury's, 28 per cent of people wish they knew more about management of the people wish the people wi egg shells to scraps left on your plate will then be disposed of in an environmental-ly-friendly fashion.



The Canberra after sliding off the runway at Seighford





The Heritage Centre's Vampire after the Buckerburg crash



The Vampire jet ripping chunks of asphalt from runway

Vampire took a big bite out of runway

AT the Radials & Trainers Fly-in at Half-penny Green Airport, a star visitor was a de Havilland Vampire jet trainer, the last one flying in this country.

As it took off to leave the event the jet exhaust ripped huge chunks of asphalt from the runway, an event captured by the camera of Gary Pearson, a Tettenhall Transport Herit-

Gary Fearson, a Tetteman Transport Heri-age Centre member.

This was not the first time that this has happened locally. In the 1950s Wobaston Road firm Boulton Paul Aircraft was getting a lot of work modifying Canberra jet bombers which could not use the grass runways at Wolverhampton Airport, Pendeford.

Test

The company decided to use the old wartime airfield at Seighford, near Stafford as its Flight Test Centre, and put a Vampire on the runway to test it.

The little jet ripped the asphalt off, and the company had to re-surface the entire runway.

The Vampire, Britain's second jet fighter, sits very low on the ground, which did not help, but, ironically, was able to use the grass runways at Pendeford when Boulton Paul did some work on the fighter version.

Seighford remained in use for nearly 10 years with both Canberras and Lightning jet fighters familiar sights, with only one mishap.

On New Year's Day 1960 Chief Test Pilot Ben Gunn suffered partial undercarriage failure on the Canberra he was testing and had to land with the main wheels only half down.

He slid off the end of the runway and hit a tree

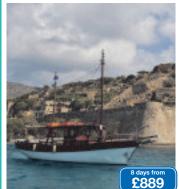
stump.
At the Heritage Centre visitors can sample the cockpits of both these aircraft types, there is the nose of one of the many Canberras modified by Boulton Paul, and there is a Vampire Jet trainer, just like the one which left Halfpenny Green with a hefty runway repair. Just one such visitor was David Dennison who travelled all the way from Somerset to sit in the actual Vampire which his father flew, and crashed.

Taking off from Buckerburg in Germany the lit-tle jet lost engine power and slid off the end of the runway. Fl Lt Dennison was unhurt and the Vam-pire was repaired.



David Dennison in the Vampire his father crashed





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JOY happily married, bi curious, blonde hair, blue eyes, big boobs, seeks someone to join in a bit of bedroom fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426845

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel: No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399 ANNE blonde hair, blue eyes, seeks males for no strings adult fun! Call and leave a num-per for me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No:

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3023 Box 421375

CHRIS, 40, blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box possible LTR. No: 426823

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can trave and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427075

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with

TRISH, 44, tall slim, good looking, GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTM male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 39-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427021 €

JASMINE, 34yrs, non smoking first time dater! Easy going, attractive and hard working. Due to work commitments I'm ooking for a no strings companion any age Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel: 0906 515 3015 Box 426201

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CATHY, 40s, slim attractive lady with an open-minded attitude to life, and WLTM a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426345

JACKIE is 54yrs and an attractive easygoing brunette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chan for eveno fun dates about between unette, she's hoping to meet a similar minded chap for some fun, dates, chats, text friendship, possibly much more. ACA Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425341 €

ATTRACTIVE blonde lady, 54yrs, loyal, romantic and solvent hoping to meet a gent with GSOH for romance, sensual times and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426341 ₿

PAM, 40, cuddly feminine young looking female, OHAC, financially secure, looking for fun times without complications with likeminded male, Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426253 🗒

MATURE lady 70s, various interests but a bit lonely, hoping to meet a gent to cheer me up, come on, we can have some fun together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426349 🗒

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to

meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the the atre, socialising etc. You can call or text me

HELEN, mid 50's naughty lady seeks some fun times with gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424493 🗒

FEMALE Doctor, 60, Asian, divorced, youth- JANE, 49, young looking attractive female SUE, 38, petite blonde, curvy size 8, outgo- FEMALE, 66 yrs old, looks young, loves to GENUINE 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, full and broad minded, likes eating out, looking to liven life up at bit with similar inter- ing, cultured, enjoys cosy night cuddles, laugh, n/s, who is genuine, caring and just looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe Shropshire area, likes the countryside, days on holidays, keep fit and meditation. Very busy esting, spontaneous man. Call me. Tel No: seeking discretelowing male to make me feel wants to be loved again. Text only Mailbox: more. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426705 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ special. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 5750819 \$\frac{1}{2}\$ 3955 Box No: 417601 special. Status unimportant. 500 3955 Box No: 426219 € SUSAN, 41, sophisticated, confident, dis-

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SATIA, 43, educated independent attractive female, nervous about dating through advertising, so pla fond disappoint me by not replying. I promise I wont disappoint you! Tel. No: 0905 500 3955 Box No: 426161 USE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out.

JANINE 40yrs, very cute petite artistic female who has a real passion for life, WLTM similarly passionate male for tactile LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426125 🗒

AZE851

ATTRACTIVE Caribbean lady 59yrs, very joily and fun seeking gent any age who must love good times. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425523

BALA, Salan BALY, 57yrs, very caring and a little subservient and quiet. I am a good cook and lovel friend PSI bet me if you are kind man. JANE, attractive and young looking 60 some-thing lady, active, outgoing with interesting personality, hoping to meet a kind gent for oc-casional meetings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 casional meetings. Box No: 425931

NATALIA, black beauty! I am late 50s but still male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gen leman older than most first as the second of the seco DOX NO: 42b931 ☐ CHLOE pretty single female 36yrs, dark hair/eyes, slim build, very lonely and looking for reliable discreet male for mutual companionship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426079 ☐ and wear heels, seeks genuine caring male Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425597 €

BROWN eyed Brummie female, 66, smoker likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5780679 🛱

 KELLY young attractive vivacious 48yr old ladky loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holdays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without lies. Tel No: 9906 500 3955 Box No: 425497 © only. Mailbox: 501.00 only. M young attractive vivacious 48yr old lady, loves good food, cosy nights in/out, holidays etc, WLTM male for mutual companionship without lies. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425913 🗒

DONNA naughty 40's, pretty, loves nights in. gyni, theate, seeks sometime to make the laugh, give lots of cuddles and go on fun dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425867 🖺

DAWN 33yr old female looking for compan- GEOFF 46, 5ft 10in, slim build, brown hair onship with understanding, non-jealous male 35-55yrs. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425849 €

KAREN, 52, 5ft5, short browny/blond hair, green eyes, medium build, GSOH, boving, caring and kind, likes to do los of things, likes a laugh, WLTM similar gent, hope to hear from you soon! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425917 JANET tall beautiful brunette, slim 12, separated, enjoys life, no hang-ups, wanting quality time, friendship and possible romance with smillar guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426807 (8)

knows what a woman needs. I'm very Iriendly and have time for you. Please call or 'ext me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: FARMERS daughter, 69, single, likes heavy horses, animals, meals out, GSOH, friendship only, 65-75. Text only. Mailbox: 425933 fi JAN, 46, lonely divorced romantic female, brown hair, green eyes, curvy feminine figure, employed, OHAC, WLTM attentive male for TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426255 ©

ing, solvent with own home, hoping to meet gent, must be kind, looks unimportant. ACA/text answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425929 🗒

ACARRY BINNEY AND ACARRY WIGHT AND ACARR

AMANDA, slim blonde, 50s seeks discreet unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425327 Box No: 425328 Box No

BROWN eyed female, 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out, WLTM male 67-74 for LTR. Text only. Mailbox 5501142

JEAN, 40, 5ft slim, busty blonde, new to dating and fed up of going through the pub ing and red up or going smooth in the both scene, WLTM down to earth male for adult Box No: 425243 \$\end{align*} company. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 32 year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. Text only. Mailbox:

MICHELLE, 34, blonde blue-eved happy femails, loves hele and being leminine, OHAC, GENT 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, self sufficient, looking for male for long-term keep fit, karacke, seeks soul mate for fun romance and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

SUE 38yrs enjoys most things, meals in/out, easygoing, broadminded, passionate, slightly feisty, looking for adult fun, call me if you're interested in spicing things up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425587 KATHY 37, gorgeous mixed race single fe-male, 5ft 8ins, slim, sensual, just looking for

kind, trustworthy guy any age, looks or race Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425589 ₿ JACKIE, 56yrs, attractive lady who is lots o

out and much much more 3955 Box No: 424491

JAN 41, fed up of sitting at home every week

SARAH, 41, dizzy blonde, blue eyes, loves to dance seeks affectionate, hunky, fun male to make her laugh and brighten up her day
Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425413

Single Men

blue eyes, N/S, honest, caring, likes cine walking, looking for female, 35-52, for retionship. Text only. Mailbox: 4172607

MALE 73, GSOH, looking for a lady any age. I like driving, days out, country walks and possible holidays. Text only. Mailbox: 5847956

PHIL, 60, 5ft10, slim build, from Wolvs, OHOC, looking for a female, 18-55, for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427121 🗒

IAN, 65, single, retired, GSOH, outdoor type loves dogs and all animals, walking, countryloves dogs and an inimals, waining, country-side, meals out, cinema, theatre and visiting different places. WLTM lady with GSOH to share interests. Can travel anywhere. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426989 €

MALE, 60, looking for a lady, 49-60, to take

YOUNG looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243 ∰

fun, maybe 5831443

MALE N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817

CARING male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893

SUE, 60s lady, calling all gents who seek a SINGLE male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, mature solvent stylish lady, I can wine and nights in, dining out, trips, WLTM lady, 50-70, dine you, you will have a nice time, call or text looks unimportant, for friendship and relationme. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: abip. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424276 18

GENTLEMAN wishes to meet nice lady 45end watching TV alone. Feel the same and 60, West Midlands area. My interests are looking for love? please contact me. Tel No: meals out, daytrips, music and reading. Text 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425497 only. Mailbox: 5817771

GENUINE Stoke male 50s, friendly and easy



MARK, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426461

SLIM male, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: special 415697

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5803493

CARING male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803

IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebody, 18-60, for IAN, 5ft6, looking for somebouy, 1290, To-general good frunt times, days out nights out meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box ANNIE, cross dresser transvestitie, seeking another cross dresser transvestitie for dis-

MALE 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy BI male 51, single, Sutton, WLTM bi or gay lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137 []

40 year old Hungarian male, 5ft8, slim, dark blond hair, blue eyes, WLTM a lady 30-45 to



WILLIAM, young 56, would like some adult fun with a sexy lady, any age, wants and good time and discreet fun. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

MALE, 60s, 5ft10, slim build, looking to meet female, for a mature adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426053

SINGLE male, 31 years old, brown eyes black hair, 6ft, seeks single slim athletic build lady similar age for fun, hopefully more. Text only. Mailbox: 4765584 [®]

JAY, attractive, 6ft2, single father, lov laugh and a giggle, looking for a lad evenings out, company and maybe more No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424303

CHRISTIAN, 57, 6ft, dark, likes walking, nice meals and socialising, looking for discreet times with a similar fun lady. If you are inter-ested please contact me. I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425947 STEVE, 59, sincere and genuine, likes pub

meals, country walks and cinema, seeks Chinese, Tia, Black, Asian or Italian lady, looks unimportant but personality is, for friendship.

Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425831

I am looking for a lady friend to enjoy my retirement with. I enjoy going out for meals and would like some company. Text only. Mailbox: 5777872 ADVENTUROUS 36-year-old male slim

dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

MARRIED businessman, mid fifties, seeks lady for discreet adult fun. Any age/looks unimportant. Text only. Mailbox: 5534019 MALE, 60, tall and slim, WLTM older female

of larger build, any age, any status, for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425807 TALL male, 58, seeks larger woman, any age, for discreet fun, married or single, Tel

GENUINE male, 37, friendly and easygoing, enjoys sport and keep fit, WLTM genuine female 25-45, for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420253

No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425643

TALL, dark, attractive male, 57, WLTM an at-TALL, dark, attactive male, 37, WEIW an attractive female for discreet daytime fun, 25-50. Can travel. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955

Box No: 425759

BOX NO: 425/59 B MALE, late 60s, medium build, 5ft10, n/s, car owner, likes meals out, holidays, walks, WLTM slim, attractive female who enjoys similar activities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425757

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feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5631357

GAY man 65, seeks male to give me a massage. Text only Mailbox: 5537379

MATURE bi xd looking for a mature gav or bi

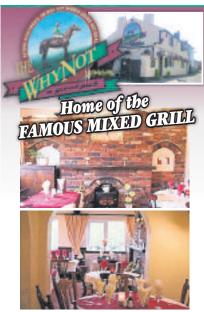
another cross dresser transvestite, sewing another cross dresser transvestite for discreet fun and relationship, in the Shropshire area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 423075 €

caring female to share life with. Tet No: 9906
500 3955 Box No: 406737
YOUNG 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey
hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpion,
fidence, frightnend what people think, trying
to find love. Text only, Mailbox: 5826865

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When the audience screams, it's fantastic

tephen Mallatratt's adaptation of Susan Hill's best-selling novel, The Woman In Black, has terrified more than million theatregoers since it first opened in the West End.

Robin Herford's gripping production is a brilliantly successfully study in atmosphere, illusion and controlled

The unanimously acclaimed stage production is on the road and will arrive at the Grand Theatre, in

Wolverhampton, from Monday until May 27.

The touring cast features David Acton, as Mr Kipps,

and Matthew Spencer, as The Actor.

The production's popularity has reached a global level, having toured the United States, South America, Tokyo and Singapore.

In 2012. Susan's novel The Woman in Black was turned into a film starring Daniel Radcliffe, which became the highest grossing British horror movie in 20 years. The sequel to that, The Woman in Black 2: Angel Of Death, came out in 2014.

came out in 2014.

It tells the story of a lawyer obsessed with a curse that he believes has been cast over him and his family by the spectre of a Woman in Black. He engages a young actor to help him tell his story and exorcise the fear that grips his soul. It begins innocently enough, but as they delve further into his darkest memories, they find themselves caught up in a world of eerie marshes and moaning winds. The bedges between make believe and reclify. winds. The borders between make believe and reality begin to blur and the flesh begins to creep.

We caught up with David and Matthew to find out what makes them leap out of their skin – and what they love about The Woman in Black.

Do you believe in ghosts?

Matthew Spencer: "For me, I would say 'ghosts? No way . . .' but I really like to think they're real. I don't like being in the stage right wing of the Fortune Theatre, where the Woman In Black plays in London. It's a little bit

What do you think it is about The Woman in Black that keeps people returning for second, third or more

David Acton: "There's certainly the chill factor, which people love but there are so many reasons. It's a brilliant play, it's extraordinary, and probably cleverer than the writer Stephen Mallatratt had anticipated. What comes out of nothing, an empty theatre arises this beautifully written story with a myriad of different characters and locations all created by the imagination. It's a touching and moving story with a great sadness about it – there's loss, shrieks and bumps along the way but there are laughs and pleasure along the way and the theatricality brings all of that together perfectly." Matthew Spencer: "You can see the film and you can

read the book but this live experience is something you won't get from either of those – there's something magical about the fact that just two people and a few props can create the different settings and play all the characters."

Having played in the small 450 seat Fortune Theatre in London, do you think the dynamic of the play will differ when toured to much larger theatres in the

Matthew Spencer: "I think each new venue will bring something entirely new to the piece, for us as well as the audience. The show is very much part of the Fortune Theatre now, but taking it out on tour will be interesting to see what more space or less space does."

David Acton: "I always say for any actor it's important to tour, because if you've played big, small, wide, tall, thin, deep stages you get a real knowledge for how to work different venues."

Whereas horror films are very common, horror plays are almost unheard of. How difficult is it to recreate the horror on stage that can be done rather easily with a computer in a film?

Matthew Spencer: "The play is so well written that a lot

of the horror comes right from the text. The start of the play is quite light, it's an opportunity for us as actors to get the audience on board. By the time we start to build



up the tension we've hopefully all had a bit of fun, we're all on the same side and then you can really start to get down to business! It's so well constructed that I never feel a pressure to make anyone scared, that just happens. I get excited for, because I know what's coming, and I find that if the audience are laughing loudly at the beginning they're usually screaming loudly half way through!'

Is it fun for you, seeing the audience react?

David Acton: "It's great, the screams are fantastic, particularly when we have school groups in! The book is on the curriculum so it's quite often that we'd have a school's matinee and they love to scream and so they scream again, look at each other and scream again!

Matthew Spencer: Equally, it does terrify adults! The reactions are all part of it, and help make it what it is and we live for those moments. It's great to see the power of live theatre working and having the desired effect."

Is there anything in the production that scares you, as

Matthew Spencer: "What scares me more than anything is the theme of the play. I know what's coming and when so for me it's about the loss that the story centres around. The first time we ever did a full run-through on stage at the Fortune Theatre was rather scary I was genuinely scared with all of the sounds and the lights and I think the people who worked on the show enjoyed making the most of that. Now we're settled into it, I take enjoyment from the audience reactions!"

I don't have nightmares but some actors have had horrible ones

Do you have any post-show rituals that help you to

recover from what you've just been through?
Matthew Spencer: "I've mentioned that the structure of the play helps to make the most of the scary moments but in equal parts it helps in a sense that we reach a conclusion. It's a very rounded play, we've told the full circle – there's nothing hanging or unfinished so we're quite satisfied when we're done."

David Acton: "I certainly don't have nightmares but

I've heard stories from past actors who have had horrible

• The Woman in Black is at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from Monday May 22 - 27. Tickets are available in person at the Box Office, by calling 01902 42 92 12 or online at grandtheatre.co.uk.

Heartbreaking war story will be told through

The world premiere of Northern Ballet's The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas will take place in Wolverhampton this month.

The touring ballet company is re-imagining John Boyne's best-selling novel in a heart-breaking brand

new production.

The first full-length dance adaptation of this world famous story, will take place in Wolverhampton at the

Grand Theatre on May 30 and 31.
Telling the story of an unlikely friendship blossoming through the disturbing events of World War II, The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas sees a child's innocent curiosity

lead to a devastating conclusion.

Previously adapted for a 2008 film by Miramax, this world-first dance adaptation will be choreographed by Northern Ballet's Artistic Associate Daniel de Andrade It will feature an original score by Oscar-nominated

composer Gary Yershon, sets and costumes designed by Mark Bailey and lighting by Tim Mitchell, with Dramatic Coach Patricia Doyle also joining the creative

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas will be the second of an unprecedented three full-length world premières to be held by Northern Ballet in 2017 following the World Première of Casanova in March 2017 and the upcoming World Première of The Little Mermaid in September 2017.

Northern Ballet will also present a children's ballet, Goldilocks and The Three Bears on May 31 at 12:30 and 2:30pm. Tickets cost £11.50 for The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas and £8.50 for Goldilocks and The Three Bears are now on sale now and can be booked in person at the box office, online at grandtheatre. co.uk or by calling 01902 42 92 12.



Following the success of their almighty self-titled debut album, Southend's Nothing But Thieves are back on tour as they prepare to release their second album. Broken Machine. later this year.

The first single from it, a soaring rock anthem entitled Amsterdam marks their stunning return, as they prepare for an already sold out gig at Birmingham's 02 Institute 2 next Friday, May 26.

The band fronted by singer Conor Mason (pictured) in a joint statement say of the new single: "It was inspired by our love of direct, auttural choruses.

"It's like Conor is spitting the words in your face.
"It's visceral and has momentum

but also this beautiful moment in the middle which feels like a break in a sea storm. "We didn't have all the pieces

before going in to the studio and this was one of the tracks that really came alive during the recording progress. It pretty much demanded to be our first song." To say Nothing But Thieves

have been on an epic journey over the past 18 months is an understatement

The Essex band's debut album has sold over 250,000 and has streamed over 174 million tracks globally to date.

The band were chosen to tour

with Muse - with whom they certainly share some musical DNA - and have played festivals in Europe, the US and even South Korea, where they played to more than 20,000 people.

The five-piece spent a big chunk of 2016 in America, where their album was the best selling debut that year from any UK rock band, playing shows and performing on TV shows as guests of Conan O'Brien, James Corden and Jimmy Kimmel.

They will be visiting the Digbeth venue as part of their warm up for major festival appearances this summer and shows to support the release of Broken Machine in September

Gordon as Elvis in tribute to the King

e of the world's top Elvis outes brings his show Gordon Hendricks is vis – to Stourbridge own Hall next month opelled into the big ne by winning the final TV show Stars In Their championship and the



2014 Collingwood festival in Canada. His show in Stourbridge on June 3, with full band, features the (ing's classics from the '50s, 60s and 70s. See www.boroughhalls.co.uk or call 01384 812812.

Your invitation to hear The Wedding Singer

Broadway musical The Wedding Singer, based on the 1998 movie that starred Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 23 to 27. Set in the 1980s with music to match, it stars Jon Robyns (from Memphis and Les Miserablés in the West End) as a disastrous wedding singer facing losing sweet Julia (X Factor's Cassie Compton) to oily Wall Street bad boy Glenn (X Factor's Ray Quinn). But not if Grandma Rosie (Hi-De-Hi's Ruth Madoc) can help it.

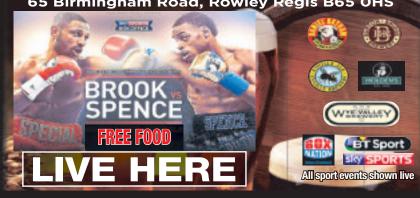
Meanwhile, La Cage Aux Folles continues at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, before moving to Wolverhampton Grand from June 27 to July 1, and The Who's rock opera Tommy gets a revamp at Birmingham Rep until May 27.





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CHOICE



isling Franciosi (left)

(BBC1, 10,10pm)

New series. Holly and Georgia have been best friends since the age of 11, so when it came time for them to leave home and head to university, it was obvious they should apply to the same academy. As the pair enjoy their first couple of weeks of freedom, they find themselves drawn to an elite clique of alpha girls, led by lecturer Jude McDermid. Drama, starring Synnove Karlsen, Aisling Franciosi Sorcha Groundsell, Ella-Rae Smith, Sophia Brown, Rachel Hurd-Wood Emma Appleton Harris Dickinson, Peter Bankole, Louise Brealey, Emun Elliott, Chris Fulton, Mark Strepan, Jack Bannon, Nadia Faccenda, Orla Bayne, Evie Brassington, Euan Gilroy and Jasmine Main.

BBC₁

6.0B Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen.
11.30 Mary Berry's Absolute Favourites.
(R) 12.00 Football Focus. 1.00 B8C
News; Weather. 1.15 Bargain Hunt. (R)
2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.15
Film: Wirek-I Rajph. (2012) Animated
adventure, with the voice of John C
Reilly. 4.45 Film: Monsters University.
(2013) Animated comedy prequel, with
the voices of Lioho Goodman and fillible (2013) Animated comedy prequel, wit the voices of John Goodman and Billy Crystal.

- 6.20 BBC News.
- Crystat.

 6.20 BBC News.
 6.30 Regional Programme.
 6.35 Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman invite figures from the world of musical theatre to take part in the unorthodox general knowledge quiz, in which contestants must guess the least likely correct answers given to questions posed to members of the public. Lyricists Tim Rice and Don Black join forces, while How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria winner Connie Fisher teams up with her former rival Siobhan Dillon. Former Chicago star Claire Sweeney pairs with comedy actor and one-time Wicked star Nigel Flaner, and Cory English, the American actor who recently starred in a UK tour of The producers, collaborates with Jupitus.
- 7.25 Doctor Who. The Doctor receives an unexpected appeal for help from the Vatican when the translation of an ancient tome said to cause anyone who reads it to die leaks onto the internet.
- Who Dares Wins. Nick Knowles challenges two pairs of complete strangers to team up, and battle it out to list as much as they know about a given subject.
- auour a given subject.

 9.00 Casualty. Hugo runs away when he find out his father Jim is planning to take him back, and Lily returns to work, but fails to notice tell-tale track-marks on her first patient's arm. patient's arm.
- BBC News; Weather.; National Lottery Update.
- 10.10 Clique. New series. Two best friends are drawn into an elite clique of alpha girls led by lecturer Jude McDermid in their first few weeks at university.

 10.55 Clique.
- 10.55 Clique.
- 11.40 Film: Insomnia. (2002) 1.35 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.40 BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Film: The Charge of the Light Brigade. (1936) 8.10 Film: Kismet. (1955) 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (8) 11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. (8) 11.00 Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape. (R) 12.00 Great British Menu. (R) 1.00 Hitchcock's Leading Actors: Talking Pictures. (R) 1.30 Film: North By Northwest. (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant. 3.45 Flog til (R) 4.10 Trust Me, I'm a Vet. (R) 5.10 Gardeners' World. (R) 6.10 Natural World. Exploring efforts by conservationists and scientists to protect wildlife including turtles, dolphins and monk seals in Hawaii's surf zone, as its marine animals face a growing threat from washed-up plastic. This comes on top of creatures having to cope with an increasing number of visitors to beaches. With a

- visitors to beaches. With a contribution by Hawaii-born musician Jack Johnson. (R)
- Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life Exploring the wildlife, landscape and culture in three distinct areas of the country. (R)
- Yorkshire Wolds Way with Paul Rose. Part two of two. Adventure Paul Rose concludes his exploration of the 79-mile
- exploration of the 79-mile Vorkshire Wolds Way, taking to the skies to get a unique view of its stretch of chalk downland.

 Dad's Army. Captain Mainwaring organises a dance in an attempt to boost platoon morale, but Pike interrupts proceedings to make an important announcement regarding his girifriend Violet. (R)

 J. Film: Philomena. (2013).
- regarding his girffriend Violet, (R)

 9.00 Film: Philomena. (2013) A

 benager in 1950s Ireland
 becomes pregnant, and is sent
 to a home for "fallen women",
 while her baby is forcibly taken
 from her and sent to America to be
 adopted. Fifty years later, she
 meets a disillusioned political
 journalist who helps to reunith her
 with her son. Fact-based drama,
 starring Judi Dench and Steve
 Coogan.

 10.33 DIM. An extended edition in
- 10.35 QI XL. An extended edition, in 10.35 U.X.L. An extended earlion, in which question-master Stephen Fry probes the subject of Messing with Your Mind, with Sarah Millican, Tommy Tiernan, Jose Widdicombe and Alan Davies.

 11.20 Versailles, King Louis XIV's continued insomnia makes him increasingly volatile, (R)
- 12.20 Film: Cabaret. (1972) 2.20 This Is

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Sooty. Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Sooty. (R) 6.35 Signed Story. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.05 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.30 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.35 NinjaGo: Masters of Spinijtzu. (R) 8.25 TIV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 The Home Game. (R) 11.20 Judge Rinder. (R) 11.15 Tipping Point. (R) 12.20 IIV News; Weather. 12.25 Bigheads. (R) 1.30 IIV Racing: Live from Newbury. 4.00 Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs. (R) 4.30 Catchphrase. (R) 5.15 Britains Got More Talent.

- 6.15 Regional Programme; Weather.
- 6.25 ITV News: Weather.
- Take Me Out. A fitness instructor, a pianist, a research executive and a construction worker submit themselves for approval.
- 8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The audition Britain's Got Talent. The audition stage of the nationwide talent contest draws to a close this weekend, as Ant and Dec invite one final batch of auditionees to show off their unique abilities to judges Simon Cowell. David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon. Next week will see the beginning of the live shows, in which the panel begins the process of whittling down the number of would-be stars they have previously thrown their number of would-be stars they have previously thrown their weight behind throughout the audition process. The Golden Buzzer went unpressed on Saturday 6th May, which means David Walliams and Ant and Dec may still have to right to send an act straight through to the semiact straight through to the semi-final, but will any of this evening's performers catch their eye?

 9.20 The Keith and Paddy Picture
- Show, Michelle Keegan, Ant and Dec, Phillip Schofield and David Dickinson help Keith Lemon and Paddy McGuinness remake the last film of the original Star Wars trilogy, Return of the Jedi.
- 9.50 Film: Total Recall. (1990) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
- 10.50 ITV News: Weather 11.05 Film: Total Recall. (1990) Concluded.
- 12.20 Jackpot247. 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

Mobil 1 The Solut 7, 10 Evenethings, exploding the Republic of Location, Location. (R)

6.35 Channel 4 News

- 7.00 The Restoration Man. George Ine Hestoration Man. George Clarke meets a man in Northumberland who bought a Victorian railway station, with the intention of converting it into a family home. He has managed to keep his budget down by doing all the building work single-handed at keep his budget down by doing all the building work single-handed at weekends, but the project has been threatened by planning restrictions. George also looks into the history of the station, and finds out why it never fulfilled its potential as part of the area's rail network (P.) network. (R)
- network. (R)

 8.00 Walks with My Dog. Bill Bailey returns to his West Country roots for a walk on Exmoor with his dog Louie, while Newsnight presenter Kirsty Wark takes in the tranquility of the Isle of Arran, Plus, Julian Clary and his Jack Russell visit the South Downs. Previously seen on More4.
- 9.00 Film: The Heat. (2013) An Film: The Heat. (2013) An uplight, ambitious FBI agent is sent to Boston to bring a notoriou drug kingpin to lustice. She ends up force to team up with a rebellious, foul-mouthed local police detective who has a very different attitude to law enforcement but is have her inability to work with others. Action comedy, starring Sandra Bullock and Melissa McCartho.
- 11.25 Film: Bullet to the Head. (2012) A 11.25 Film: Bullet to the Head. (2012) A hitman and a police detective join forces to seek revenge on the man who murdered both their partners. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.

 1.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) 1.50 Hollyoaks. (R) 3.55 Location. Location. Location. (R) 4.55 hipping Wars UK. (R) 5.15 Fifteen to One. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! 9.50 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 The Fairly Little Kingdom. (R) 10.00 The Fairly OddParents. (R) 10.35 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 12.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 1.30 Police Interceptors. (R) 2.30 FIA Formula E Live: 2017 Paris ePrix. The Paris ePrix. 1.15 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **5.15** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)

SATURDAY'S TV MAY 20

Away. (R)
6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.
The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. Elsewhere, officers visit a family in Kent to try to collect more than £5,000, but an emotional backstory means they are forced to make a sensitive decision. (R)

- decision. (H)
 7.10 NCIS: Los Angeles. Kensi and
 Deeks go undercover as a married
 couple in a quiet suburb as part of
 an investigation into a Russian
 sleeper cell.
 8.00 NCIS. A 14-year-old boy manages
 to foil a boya invesion, but when
- to foil a home invasion, but when Gibbs is called in to investigate, he suspects the teenager may be withholding crucial information. As the case makes progress, As the case makes progress, Gibbs turns his attention to helping the boy's mother, the wife of a naval officer, and his efforts result in an invitation to the White House to meet the First Lady (Michelle Obarna, guest starring as herself). Meanwhile, Director Vance and FBI Agent Fornell travel to London as part of the ongoing case involving the escaped British spies.

spies.

5 News Weekend.

Most Shocking Celebrity
Moments of the 80s. The most
infamous TV moments of the
1980s, including the disastrous
pit awards hosted by Samantha
Fox and Mick Fleetwood, Simon Le
Don's nautical misad the concert where Ozzy Osbourn famously bit the head off a bat. With contributions from Anthea Turner, Linda Lusardi, Rick Wakeman, Jennie Bond, Nathan Moore, Su Pollard and Paul Burrell. (R)

TEL: 0121 585 7020 / 501 3816

Surgel. (1)

11.50 Football on 5: The Playoffs.
Bradford City v Millwall.

12.15 SuperCasino. 3.05 Film: The New
Daughter. (2009) 4.50 House Doctor. (R)
5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Saints and Sinners: Britain's
Millennium of Monasteries 8.00 Masters
of the Pacific Coast: The Tribes of The
American Northwest 9.00 Hinterland American Northwest 9.00 Hinterland 10.30 Top of the Pops: 1983 11.35 Easy Listening Hits at the BBC 12.40 Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy 1.40 An Evening with Glen Campbell 3.00 Easy Listening Hits at the BBC 4.00 Close

ITV2

11.05 Britain's Got Talent 12.25 Britain's Got More Talent 1.30 Take Me Out 2.45 Take Me Out 1.45 Take

11.55 Film: Carry On Henry (1971) 1.00 FYI Daily 1.05 Film: Carry On Henry (1971) 1.45 A Touch of Frost 3.55 Lewis 5.55 Rosemary & Thyme 7.00 Midsomet Murders 9.00 Foyle's War 11.05 Law & Order: UK 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30

11.00 The Classic Car Show 11.55 The Car Chasers 12.55 Counting Cars 1.50 Storage Wars 2.50 Film: Apache (1954) 3.50 FIVE July 3.55 Film: Apache (1954) 4.35 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 5.35 FIVI Daily 5.40 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 5.35 FIVI Daily 5.40 Film: The Horse Soldiers (1959) 7.00 The Sweeney 8.05 Better Late Than Never 9.00 Film: Navy Seals (1990) 10.05 FVI Daily 10.10 Film: Navy Seals (1990) 11.20 Film: Say Seals (1990) 10.05 FVI Daily 10.10 Film: Navy Seals (1990) ME 2.25 Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) 12.25 Film: From Dusk Till Dawn (1996) 2.55 TIV4 Nightscreen 3.00

E4
2.20 Rude(ish) Tube Shorts 2.30 The
Goldbergs 5.00 The Big Bang Theory
9.00 Film: Limitless (2011) 11.05
Gogglebox 1.15 Rude Tube 2.15 Marvel's
Agents of SHIELD 3.05 How I Met Your
Mother 3.50 Charmed

Film4
11.00 The Quick Gun (1964) 1.00 Just
Wright (2010) 3.05 Spy Kids 4: All the
Time in the World (2011) 4.45 The Four
Musketeers (1974) 6.55 One Day (2011)
9.00 Non-Stop (2014) 11.05 Quija
(2014) 12.50 The Breakfast Club (1985)
2.55 Close



Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge. New series. Eight teams transform cabins across Wales into luxury tourist accommodation, which together will form a pop-up hotel that can be moved around the country.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Caterham. 6.40

7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R

7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (Ř)
8.30 Fevrybody Loves Raymond. (Ř)
8.30 Frasier. (Ř) 9.00 Frasier. (Ř) 9.30
Sunday Brunch 12.30 Eat the Week.
1.30 The Simpsons. (Ř) 2.00 Film: Dr
Dolittle 2. (2001) Comedy sequel,
starring Eddie Murphy, 3.50 Film: Robin
Hood. (1973) Disney animation, with the
voices of Terry-Thomas and Peter
Ustinov. 5.30 George Clarke's Olid House,
New Home. (Ř)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Fiat Pack Mansions.

6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Flat Pack Mansions.
Documentary following people
who are building huge luxury
houses out of prefabricated
materials on a tight schedule, with
the homes designed to the
environmentally efficient. Pizza
restaurant entrepreneurs Richard
and Nikki Cooper plan to build a
5000-square foot home in just
four days, David and Lesley
Lennox rush to complete their
build before their daughters
wedding, and Paul Cook is
constructing his dream house on a
constructing his dream house on a

construction cliff top.

8 NO Cabins in the Wild with Dick

tomorrow.

10.05 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)

11.00 Film: Bad Teacher. (2011) A cynical, hard-drinking teacher hopes to seduce a wealthy substitute, making an enemy of a squeaky-clean colleague in the process. Comedy, with Cameron Diaz and Justin Timberlake.

Diaz and Justin Limberlake.

12.50 Millionaires' Mansions: Designing Britain's Most Exclusive Homes. (R) 1.45 The Last Leg. (R) 2.40 Location, Location, Location, (R) 3.35 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb 4.30 Jamie's Comfort Food Bites. (R) 4.40 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 5.05 Gillette World Sport. 5.35 Mobil 1 The Grid. (R)

CHANNEL 5

GHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Milkshake! Monkey.
6.05 Mr Men. 6.15 Peppa Pig. (R) 6.20
Peppa Pig. (R) 6.25 Wissper. (R) 6.35
Paw Patrol. (R) 6.45 Both be Builder. (R)
7.00 Fireman Sam. (R) 7.10 Olly the
Little White Van. (R) 7.15 Olly the Little
White Van. (R) 7.20 Paw Patrol. (R) 7.35
Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R)
8.00 Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) 8.15
Wissper. (R) 8.30 Ben and Hollys Little
Kingdom. (R) 8.45 Shimmer and Shine.
(R) 9.05 Little Frincess. (R) 9.25 Peppa
Pig. (R) 9.30 Peppa Pig. (R) 9.40 Ben
and Hollys Little Kingdom. (R) 9.55 The
Fairly OddParents. (R) 10.30 Dogs Make
You Laugh Out Loud. (R) 10.55 Police
Interceptors. (R) 11.55 Police
Interceptors. (R) 11.56 Police
Interceptors. (R) Fantasy adventure, starring Jennifer Connelly and David Bowie.

Conneily and David Bowle.

7.05 Film: Walking on Sunshine.
(2014) Premiere. A woman has a whirifwind romance in Italy and decides to get married. Her sister flies out to attend the wedding, but is shocked to discover that the groom is the man she loved and lets on a previous belified. Musically

groom is the man sne roveu and lost on a previous holiday. Musical comedy featuring a soundtrack of 1980s pop songs, starring Hannah Arterton and Greg Wise. 8.55 5 News Weekend. 9.00 Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni

Greatest 80s Movies. Ronni
Ancona narrates a countdown of
viewers' favourite films from the
decade, including ET, Top Gun,
Ghostbusters, Beverly Hills Cop
and Ferris Bueller's Day Off.
Christopher Lloyd chafs about
playing Doc Brown in the Back to
the Future franchise, Breakfast
Club star Judd Nelson reveals
what life was really like in the Brat
Pack and Corey Feldman recalls
the first time he saw the pirate ship
on the set of The Goonies. Zach ure irist time ne saw the pirate ship on the set of The Goonies. Zach Galligan shares the secrets of how the mogwai were brought to life in Gremlins and Paul Hogan talks about the success of Crocodile Dundee. (R)

11.55 Film: Highlander. (1986) Immortal warriors must fight each other in duels to the death through the centuries, until only one survives. Fantasy action adventure, with Christopher Lambert and Sean Conner

2.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Top 20 Funniest.
(R) 4.00 Criminals: Caught on Camera.
(R) 4.50 House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 The Birth of Birtish Music 8.00
Titankhamun: The Last Days of Steam 9.00
Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered
10.00 Arena: American Epic 11.00
Country at the BBC 12.00 The Secret
Horse: Quest for the True Appaloosa 1.00
Burma, My Father and the Forgotten
Army 2.00 Horizon: Man on Mars—
Mission to the Red Planet 3.00
Tutankhamun: The Truth Uncovered 4.00
Close

11.45 Take Me Out 1.00 Film: A Cinderella Story (2004) 2.00 FYI Daily 2.05 Film: Ginderella Story (2004) 3.05 Film: Ginderella Story (2004) 3.05 Film: Space Chimps (2008) 4.05 FYI Daily 4.10 Film: Space Chimps (2008) 4.40 Britain's Got Talent 5.55 Firain: Red Riding Hood (2011) 7.55 FYI Daily 8.00 Film: Red Riding Hood (2011) 9.00 Take Me Out -The Gossip 10.00 Family Guy 11.30 American Dad1 12.25 The Cleveland Show 1.25 Through the Keyhole 2.15 Alesha Dixon: The Hot Desk 2.25 Teleshopping 5.55 TIV2 Nightscreen 11.45 Take Me Out 1.00 Film:

11.50 Film: Columbo: The Greenhouse Jungle (1972) 1.20 A Touch of Frost 3.40 Foyle's War 5.55 Midsomer Murders 8.00 Royal Stones 9.00 The Queen's Garden 10.00 Law & Order: UK 12.05 Wire in the Blood 3.20 May the Best House Win 5.05 In Loving Memory

ITV4

11.15 Live British Touring Car
Championship. 6.00 Storage Wars 6.55
Fishing Impossible 6.00 Premiership
Rulpby Union 9.00 Heroes and Villains:
Caught on Camera 10.00 Film: Driven to
Kill (2009) 11.05 Film:
Driven to Kill (2009) 12.05 River
Monsters 1.05 Minder 2.05 Fifth Gear
3.00 Teleshopping

f4

E4
11.35 The Goldbergs 1.30 Black-ish 2.00
Baby Daddy 2.30 Kevin Can Wait 3.00
Brooklyn Nine-Nine 3.25 The Big Bang
Theory 6.45 Flim: The Three Mussketers (2011) 9.00 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
10.00 Rude Tube 11.00 8.00 tof 10 Cats
11.50 Tattoo Fixers on Holiday 2.00
Marvel's Agents of SHIELD
Tube 3.10 New Girl 3.30 Hollycaks

TIM4
11.00 Quadalcanal Diary (1943) 1.00
Diary of a Wimpy Kid (2010) 2.50 Time
Bandits (1981) 5.05 Johnny English
(2003) 6.45 Shallow Hal (2001) 9.00 The Gunman (2015) **11.15** Rush (2013) **1.** Love & Other Drugs (2010) **3.50** Close

CHOICE



The Trial: A Murder in the (Channel 4, 9pm)

New series, Drama documentary in which a fictional murder case is tried in a real court, with Michael Gould playing defendant Simon Davis in front of a real judge, jury, QCs and expert witnesses. The first episode sees police officers and eve witnesses called on to give testimony and build up a picture of the day the victim was strangled to death in her own home. Continues tomorrow.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 The Andrew Marr Show. 10.00 The Big Questions. 11.00 Regional Programme. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Money for Nothing. (R) 2.00 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 Shop Well for Less? (R) 4.00 Lifeline. 4.10 Points of View. 4.25 Snogs of Praise. 5.00 RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2017.

6 NN RRC New

- 6.20 Regional Programme.
 6.30 Countrylie. Matt Baker explores the rise and fall of the orchards in the Clyde Valley. Ellie Harrison explores some of Scotland's oldest forests and meets an urban beekeeper, and Sean Fletcher visits a traditional mill using machinery that is centuries old. Adam Henson and Charlotte Smith wist an agricultural project in Newport Pagnell and Tom Heap reports on the problem of microplastics in the ocean.
- 7.30 Antiques Roadshow, Fiona Bruce presents a second show from Ightham Mote near Sevenoaks igntnam Mote near Sevenoaks, where finds include a gold ring containing a lock of Lord Byron's hair, a collection of postcards fron 1916 that reveal how a British PoW sent messages to his family, and a pair of Chinese paintings that make a big impression on specialist David Battle.

 8.30 Inspector George Gently. The first
- of two final cases for the detective, played by Martin Shaw. On the brink of retirement, Gently repens the case of a woman convicted of killing her husband, hoping to uncover a long-buried miscarriage of lustice. However miscarriage of justice. However, the investigation places Gently's career on the line and stirs up tension with Bacchus, who worked on the original investigation.

10 OO BBC News

10.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the final day of the Premier League season, with matches including Hull City v Tottenham Hotspur and Swar City v West Bromwich Albion.

12.15 Murder in Successville, Professor 12.1b Murder in Successville. Professor Green helps DI Sleet with a particularly unusual case as Successville's resident superhero the Rattman battles his arch-enemy the Termite – whose identity is a mystery. 12.45 The Women's Football Show. 1.20 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.25 BBC News.

6.05 A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) 6.50 The Instant Gardener. (R) 7.35 The Instant Gardener, (R) 7, 35 Gardener's World, (R) 8, 35 The Beechgrove Garden. 9, 95 Countryfile. (R) 10,00 Saturdey Kitchen Best Bites. 11,30 Great British Menu. (R) 12,00 Great British Menu. (R) 12,00 Great British Menu. (R) 12,00 Highlights. 2,00 Film: None But the Brave. (1965) Second World War adventure, starring Frank Sinatra. 3,45 Galapagos - Islands of Change: Natural World. (R) 4,30 Final Score. 5,30 Flog It! (R)

- 6.00 Inside the Factory: How Our Favourite Foods Are Made. The Favourite Foots Are Made. The exploration of three household staples continues as Gregg Wallace goes inside a chocolate factory in York, which produces a staggering seven million bars every day, He follows the 24-hour journey from bean to bar and meets the people who work round the clock. Cherry Healey helps out on a production line in Derbyshire, where chocolate boxes are still made by hand, and historian Ruth Goodman delves through the archives to find out what it was like archives to find out what it was like working in factories before machines took over. (R)
- 7.00 Dragons' Den. Evan Davis presents the business ideas contest, with the panel considering the potential of plans for miniature pencils, giant beanbags and bootcleaning machines. (R)
- cuaning machines. (r)
 8.00 Mexico: Earth's Festival of Life.
 The deserts of Mexico's northern region, home to animals like prairie dogs, pygmy owls and aplomado falcons that have adapted to thrive in these arid conditions. Last in the series.
- 9.00 Dara and Ed's Road to Mandalay Dara of Briain and Ed Byrne arrive in Myanmar, where they take part in a Buddhist festival and have their fortunes read before finally reaching Mandalay. Last in the series.
- 10 00 Film: The Homesman (2014) Pfilm: The Homesman. (2014)
 Premiere. A frontier woman
 persuades an outlaw to help her
 lead three traumatised women
 across the wilderness. Western,
 directed by and starring Tommy
 Lee Jones, with Hilary Swank.

11.55 Film: Love Is All You Need. (2012) Romantic drama, with Pierce Brosnan and Trine Dyrholm 1.45 Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) 2.45 Holby City. (R) 3.45 This Is BBC Two.

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. 6.10 Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.25 Sooty. Bottom Knocker Street. (R) 6.28 Scotty. (R) 6.35 Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) 6.40 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 6.50 Dino Dan: Treks Adventures. (R) 7.00 Oddbods. (R) 7.105 Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) 7.55 Ben 10. Roberton Standard Roberton Ro

and Christopher Lee. 6.40 Regional Programme; Weather.

- 6.45 ITV News; Weather 7.00 Bigheads. Jason Manford hosts the comedy game show in which contestants compete in a series of contestants compete in a series of bizarre physical challenges while wearing glant model heads of Donald Trump, Theresa May, and David and Victoria Beckham. They must dodge past glant bouncers to get into a nightclub, fight over microphones to record a single, and get away before the paparazzi see them. With commentary from Jenny Powell and Kriss Akabusi. 8.00 The Durrells. Hugh organises a cricket match between Greek and English teams to bring everyone together. Countess Mavrodaki offers to umpire – but warns
- offers to umpire but warns Margo that contests between the two nations are never friendly. Spiro advises Louisa that she has terrible taste in men, while Larry finds that Vasilia wants their relationship to progress faster than expected.
- 9 00 Grantchester Sidney joins a travellers' community as he struggles to put his past life in Grantchester behind him, but finds himself accused of murder and in need of Geordie's help. 10.00 ITV News; Weather.

10.0011 News; Weather.

10.20 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R)

11.20 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman

present highlights of the semi-finals.

12.15 Lethal Weapon. (R) 1.00 Jackpot247. 3.00 Motorsport UK.

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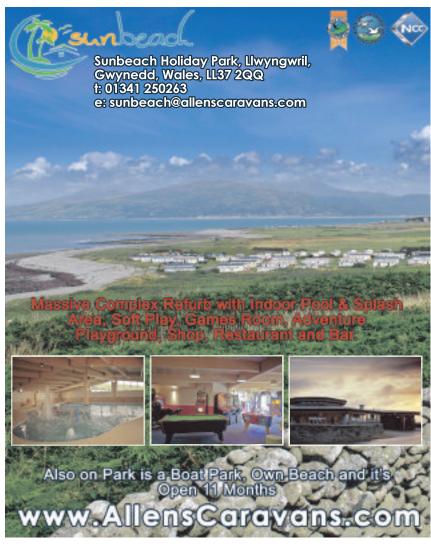
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PICK OF THE WEEK

MONDAY

Django Unchained, Channel 5, 10pm

A slave named Django is tracked down by eccentric German bounty hunter Dr King Schultz, who offers him his freedom in exchange for help bringing three criminals to justice. The unlikely allies continue their partnership after the job is done, and fight to rescue Django's wife from a sadistic plantation owner. Quentin Tarantino's Oscar-winning Western, starring Jamie Foxx and Christoph Waltz. (2012)

Perfect Seduction, Channel 5, 3.15pm

Despite having left his girlfriend behind in New York City for a promotion in Portland, Brandon hopes that they can make things work long-distance. But his new co-worker Simone has other ideas and she impersonates both Brandon and his absent girlfriend in order to end their relationship. Thriller, starring Adrienne Frantz, Jon Cor and Ashley Leggat. (2015)



Django Unchained, Monday, Channel 5, 10pm

WEDNESDAY

Whiteout, Channel 4, 1,50am

A troubled US marshal stationed in Antarctica investigates the first-ever murder committed on the continent. As she pursues the killer across the ice, she uncovers the dark secret behind a Soviet plane crash 50 years earlier - but the harsh conditions could kill her before the murderer does. Thriller, starring Kate Beckinsale. (2009)

THURSDAY

Guilty at 17. Channel 5. 3.15pm

A teenager believes her friend when she lies about being sexually harassed by a teacher, and falsely claims to have witnessed an incident. When the accused teacher commits suicide, she is consumed with guilt and begins to suspect she has been deceived. Crime drama, starring Erin Sanders. (2014)

She's Out of My League, BBC1, 11.25pm

Distinctly average Kirk cannot believe his luck when he lands a date with the beautiful Molly. The pair embark on a relationship but Kirk's insecurities lead him to question whether they belong together Romantic comedy, starring Jay Baruchel. (2010)

Series hopes that it won't prove to be a tough sell

f you haven't seen the trailers for this new sitcom starring former inbetweeners James Buckley and Joe Thomas, it may come as surprise to learn that the 'white gold' of the title refers to the PVC on double-glazed windows But it's an idea that the show's creator, writer and director Damon Beesley is very familiar with.

Beesley, who along with lan Morris came up with The Inbetweeners, explains: "White Gold has lived in my head for thirty years. Ever since I heard my father describe the UPVC plastic which framed the double-plazed windows he sold as being as valuable, gram for gram as gold! Uwas captivated.

My dad was a double-glazing salesman in the early days of the industry, before double glazing salesman became the national pariahs that we all know and loathe. But back then, in the early 80s, white plastic windows were a status symbol of upward mobility."

And it's that era that provides the backdrop for this show, as it takes us back to the Essex of 1983. Beesley

with helping to modernise the royal family. He also hears from some of those closest to him and gets a

chance to see the Duke ëoff-duty' at the recent

TUESDAY

BBC1, 9pm

sets the scene, saying: "While the miners' strikes, picket-line riots and police brutality defined the story of the working classes across the land, in the South East business was booming. Under Thatcher's Tory government, the national stock of council housing was effectively put up for sale with the introduction of the right to buy scheme.

"And so a revolution of Ariu so a revolution or homeownership was born, and in this brave new world of individualism there was no better way to show the neighbours that you owned the house you lived in than getting shiny new double glazed windows fitted."

glazed windows inted.

Of course, he also had a personal connection to this world. "As a kid, I remember visiting the showcoms that my dad worked in and being fascinated by the charismatic, brash and well-groomed young men that sat around all day laughing, smoking Rothman's cigarettes, drinking tea, and occasionally selling to customers.

"As a grown-up writer, there was something about these characters

class men, with the gift of the gab and a hunger to succeed felt like a great way into the early 80s that maybe hadn't been explored

In White Gold, we're introduced to /incent Swan (Ed Westwick), double glazing salesman extraordinaire. He's handsome. confident and prepared to do whatever it takes to get a sale

His team at Cachet Windows also includes Fitzpatrick (Buckley), who can charm people out of their life savings, and Lavender (Thomas), whose politeness and moral compass tend to be a hindrance when it comes to securing a sale.

when it comes to securing a sale. In the first peisode, Fitzpatrick becomes the subject of a bet as he tries to pull the ultimate salesman's con – selling new windows to someone who's recently shelled out for the exact same product. Meanwhile, Vincent has his own challenge to deal with as he attempts to convince an old colleague to join him in the double-glazing business.



Ed Westwick stars in White Gold, Wednesday, BBC2, 10pm

BEST OF THE REST

Vicky Kneale responds to concerns from local residents about the borough's prostitution problem

THURSDAY

Paula BBC2, 9pm

According to the old proverb, revenge is a dish best served cold. Try telling that to the title character of this new three-part drama, which is the first TV project for acclaimed Olivier and Tony award-winning playwright Conor McPherson. There is nothing cold here calculating, yes, but it's all done with fire and passion Paula is a Dublin-based

respected by her

colleagues and pupils, but her life is about to spiral dangerously out of control when she decidedly dodgy

torrid one-night stand. Paula is then drawn into his murky world, and suddenly, she can't escape from him - and his actions have an impact on her job. family and friends. But how far will she go to ge James out of her life?

FRIDAY Count Arthur Strong BBC1, 8,30pm

This sitcom only seems to crop up at two yearly intervals - the previous series were broadcast in 2013 and 2015 – so it's easy for viewers to forget just how entertaining Steve Delaney's alter ego can be. Still, last week's opening episode served as a welcome reminder of the out-of-work actor and showbiz legend (in his own mind least) Count Arthur Strong's charms, and there are more laughs this week as John the Watch's former criminal associates start taking an interest in Bulent's café. But which of the breakfast options will they prefer?

Lethal Weapon

ITV, 9pm
While investigating a series of violent crimes connected to a church, Riggs faces a moral dilemma of his own when the first anniversary of Miranda's death sends him to a new low.

USE YOUR LOFT!

working-class community. Over six episodes, we will see Fr Kerrigan trying to make a difference in his parishioners' lives, while struggling coming to Prince Philip: 70 Years of Service ITV. 9pm terms with his own troubled past and testing It was recently announced that Prince Philip is to ocation. Tonight, Fr Michael meets Christin step down from public duties - and given that he's 95, it would be hard to grudge him his retirement. In this documentary, Alan Titchmarsh looks back at the Fitzsimmons (Anna Friel), a mother of three who works at the local betting shop. When her attendance in Church sparks an unfortunate Duke of Edinburgh's 70 years in the spotlight, which saw him go from a naval officer to the longestchain of events, she is left with no way to feed her children and comes up with a desperate serving royal consort in British history, Titchmarsh has interviewed Prince Philip on several occasions, and he shares his insights into the man credited plan. Will she go through with it, or can Fr

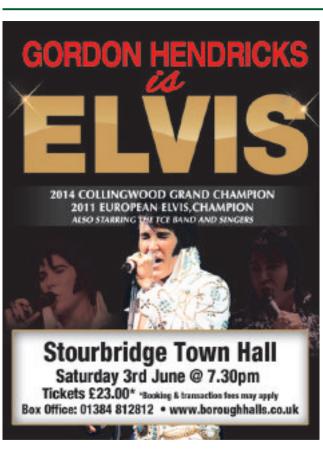
Royal Windsor Horse Show, and the programme BBC1, 9pm asks what his decision will mean for the monarchy. New series. Documentary following officers

from Britain's biggest and busiest police force as they deal with life, death, crime and its victims across London. In the first episode, police constables Sean Bean has been fortunate to work with Laura Walker and Oz Bhatti patrol the streets of Westminster screenwriter Jimmy McGovern already on drama anthology Accused, which scored him a BAFTA nomination. And the pair have joined forces again but are later called upon as back up when an impromptu summer party in Hyde Park descends for this new landmark drama, which follows Fi into chaos. Meanwhile in Michael Kerrigan (Bean), the modern, maverick and Stratford, East London, Sergeant reassuringly flawed parish priest in an impoverished

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9

3 |

6 8

9

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Thursday, May 18,

3

6

8 1

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

2

1

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4 9

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1 3

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8

4

Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3

boxes contains all the digits

22

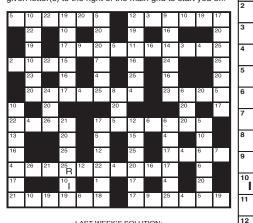
23

24

25 **R**

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



fit the same grid. Cryptic Clues:

- 1. Booth Farm accommodation (5) Where clinkers are found, path is diverted to the
- south (3,4) 8. Its name is changed by the occupants (7)
 The rubbish that
- people are willing to
- swallow! (5) A very small coin

- 10. A very small coin for a tiny child (4)
 11. See 13 down
 13. Unusually old, turnip-headed numskull (4)
 14. See 23 Across
 16. Made a signal gets rude, maybe (8)
 17. Not being used as an image, we hear (4)
 20. Lawn is attractive when put hack (5)
- when put back (5) 21 & 5 Dn Those
- who take a cold bath don't find themselves in trouble (3,4,3,5)
- Group not charged allowed to leave
- (3,4) 23 & 14Ac. Much comes from splendid distribution of cards (5,4)

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both

- 1. They record earthshaking events (13)
- 2. Let in to make a confession (5)
- 3. This fills the cracks in the instrument (4)
- 4. Some of the plans were to hide the solution (6)
- 5. See 21 Across
 6. Letter of introduction
- 7. In the main it's back to front (5-8)
- 12. Fish to be all at sea! (8)
- 13 & 11Ac. Far-flung tale from remote connection (7,8)
- 15. Animal used in hunting the first of the buzzards, a bird of prey (6)
- 18. Lacking smartness - needs to be sorted out (5)
- forming part of the fiesta, gentlemen (4)

19. Kind of party

- 1. Stage furnishings (5)
- 4. Artist (7)

Quick Clues:

- 8. Praise insincerely (7)
- 9. Bewitch (5)
- 10. Large jug (4)
- 11. Rider (8)
- 13. Merit (4) **14.** Impure (4)
- 16. Hand over (8)
- **17.** Joy (4)
- 20. Semi-precious stone (5) 21. Colossal (7)
- 22. Builder (7) 23. Squeeze (5)

- 1. Discriminate (13)
- 2. Pursue (5)
- 3. Roster (4)
- 4. Rector (6)
- 7. Recollections (13)
- 12. Expectation (8)
- 15. Epistle (6)
- 19. Halt (4)

- 5. Cut (8)
- 6. Obstruct (7)

- 13. Issue (7)
- 18. Spear (5)

1 7 4 3 6 9 2 5 8 6 9 5 8 2 4 3 1 7

| Section | Sect

Quiz

- What do we call the scavenger bird Corvus
- What is the capital of Australia's Northern

 $\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{Z} & \mathbf{Z} & \mathbf{X} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{J} & \mathbf{S} & \mathbf{I} & \mathbf{I}$

- What is the main constituent of the alloy
- Which plant is the Scottish national What is the capital of Chechnya?
- What is traditionally the official residence of the Chancellor of the Exchequer?
- What was boxer Joe Louis's nickname?
- Which cotton fabric is named after the Iraqi city Mosul? What is the name of the Atlantic-Pacific sea
- route around the north of Canada? 10. Which Broadway award is named after actress and producer Antoinette Perry?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Magnetic field; 2 Marcel Marceau;

- 3 Guernsey: 4 Green Monkey Disease:
- 5 A loofah; 6 Christian Scientists; 7 Egypt;
- 8 Joan Collins; 9 Gasoline; 10 Euripides.

Niner: UPHOLSTER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

7629183 457453 89154

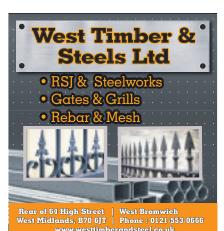
gives a tube station, gives a second tube station, gives a commuter town.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

) - Croatia's charming car

ZAGREB is one of Europe's youngest capital cities, as the cultural and administrative hub for Croatia, which finally gained independence in 1991 after the collapse of Communist Yugoslavia.

Located between the River Sava and the slopes of Medvednica Mountain and known as 'Little Vienna', the city's main public buildings, shopping arcades, elegant apartments and picture perfect parks were built after an earthquake in 1880. They were constructed in the opulent style befitting one of the major cities of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

The city is festooned with statuary. Even the most

humble facade is not complete without some caryatid or god-like adornment watching over the streets below. In modern folklore it is said that these guardians of the urban environment sometimes climb down for a stroll in the wee hours. It's a pity they couldn't catch the graffiti artists whose tags are everywhere, a scourge that

affects many European cities.

Modern office towers now compete in size with the suburban high-rise blocks thrown up to house workers during the boom years of Marshall Tito's Yugoslavia. But the twin towers of the city's neo-Gothic cathedral, also constructed after the earthquake, still dwarf all other contenders as Zagreb's tallest building.

The city is built on two hills, the Gradec and Kaptol.
The former has St Mark's Church with its colourful
tiled roof showing coats of arms for Croatia's regions (including the red and white checks familiar from the national football team shirt). It is flanked by the president's palace and the Croatian Parliament. It is reached by a funicular cliff railway, or steep steps or a road that climbs through the Stone Gate, a medieval gateway/chapel containing an icon of the Virgin Mary and baby Jesus that is venerated by devout Catholics Kaptol has the Cathedral and vibrant daily Dolac Market.



The opulent interior of Zagreb's National Theatre

Between the hills is Tkalciceva, a long street lined by restaurants and bars. Try Strukli, a savoury or sweet Zagreb dish that is somewhere between lasagne and bread and butter pudding, or a glass of the outstanding local beer Pivovara Medvedgrad's Fakin IPA.

Croatia may be a new state but the Croatian identity and language goes back centuries. The strong pride in the achievements of this small nation perhaps explain the incredible plethora of museums and art galleries.

With most visitors to Croatia heading for the coast, and the city's own population numbering well under a million, you are not going to be swamped by crowds

Highlights include: The Museum of Broken Relationships; donated items, from an axe used to smash up a cheating girlfriend's furniture to a mother's suicide note, illustrate touching stories (in English) collected from around the world. This poignant exhibition will not leave you unmoved.

Mimara; a vast and highly varied collection of art and valuable objects collected by Wiltrud and Ante Topić Mimara and housed in a palatial former school.

Museum of Arts and Crafts; the religious icons and

wooden statues are in themselves worth the visit, but there is much, much more.
Croatian Museum of Naive Art; colourful folk art

meets Balkan surrealism.

Zagreb can easily be explored on foot, if footsore, hop onto a tram, tickets from the many Tisak kiosks. Save some kuna with a 24 or 72-hour Zagreb card which offers use of the ZET city transportation (trams, buses, funicular), admission to four museum/galleries and the zoo, plus discounts for other attractions.

Leon Burakowski



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DOREMA XL Safari porch awning charcoal grey, complete with storm strap kit, steel poles and carpet used 3 times, £295. 07969 269552



2004, 4berth. Nearly new power touch motor mover, TV/DVD touch motor mover, TV/DVD combined. Folding bed. As new blow up awning, all equipment needed. For a full list or info.

£4.995 ono 07743 442489.

STATIC ATLAS EVERGLADE

38ft 12ft, 6 berth.

Large decking.

Site fees paid till 2017.

Beach location, Borth,

Mid Wales

£11,000 ono. 07986 690052.

STATIC CARAVAN FOR SALE ON ANGLESEY NORTH WALES

Village location, 1 mile from beach, 2 bed with private parking, decking included, overlooking stream. £12.500.

Includes site fees for 2017. 07462 719969.



Willerby Granada, 37 x 12, 2002, 2 bedroomed caravan, with double glazing and central heating, on quiet Mid Wales site, with fishing pools. £15,250 ono. 01686 413544.

STATIC TUDOR ELEGANCE

Site fees paid till 2017.

Mid Wales.

£11,500 ono. 07986 690052

Sleeps 7,

Rates for 2017 have been

very small and quiet site near

£6,500.

07948 393747

Any age or condition

Also motorhomes wanted.

TOP PRICES PAID
Immediate collection. **CALL THOMAS** 07717 280 996

POOL TABLE 6X3FT Custon made, never been used, mint con dition with lights, £400 ono. 07860 673165.

holidays

LUXURY HOLIDAY HOME for sale on 5° park. Golf, fishing, bar & restaurant, pet friendly £24,995 inc. 2017 site fees www.pearllake.co.uk 01568 708 326

BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Apartments

Disabled Facilities

www.GoSomerset.co.uk

BUDE CORNWALL 2 BED CHALET On 4* woodland site, pool & free entertainment. May, June, Sept & Oct £140 pw. Whitsun & July £200pw School Holidays £395pw 07974 226 928.

travel abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED to check with any Advertisers that their holiday costs are fully covered by a recognised bonding or insurance scheme.

Home & Services

furniture

BLACK LEATHER THREE PIECE SUITE Totally unused, still packaged unwanted gift, cost £1,250 quick sale, accept DINING CHAIRS set of 4, dark brown leather, very good condition can deliver £90. 0121 6026576.

NEST OF two tables, solid light oak leather, light oak legs, £20. 01902 723430 or 07813 689769.

THREE PIECE SUITE Cream, three seater sofa and 2 lected £150. 07507 765451.

items for sale

ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDED

REMINDED
That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

CORONET UNIVERSAL woodwork

PICKWICK Victorian potato oven good condition, absolute bargair £1,250. Telephone 01902 784244.

items wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE



FOR ALL RAILWAY
COLLECTIONS
Any gauge or age
Homby/Bachmann/Bowmans/
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/
any live steam. Also Die Cast,
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.
01384 836219 / 07891 713547
thetrainmaster67 @
botmail com



ALL MILLITARIA ITEMS FROM WARS WANTED BY COLLECTOR

Swords, medals, helmets etc single or full items.

German, Japenese, British, Will collect.

Very good prices paid 07511 500337.

AUTO MEMORABILIA

SHELL, ESSO, CASTROL ETC

ALSO GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs. Petrol Cans,

Old Jugs, Classic Car Parts.

Bikes and Motorbikes. Anything old. ** TOP PRICES PAID **

01384 836219 / 07891 713547

MALE FULL body mannequin wanted to display a military uniform. Contact 01902 737901. READERS ARE ADVISED to

before agreeing to the sale of any of their items. SPECTRUM GAMES Wanted, plus any Spectrum 128k +2 or 48k com-puter wanted, also any old Crash magazines wanted. 01902 892918.

WANTED Variable speed wood lathe. 01902 783198.

loans

READERS ARE REMINDED
that they may require professional advice before entering into obligations.

specialists at your service

aerials

AVA DIGITALES SATELLITE & COTY AERIALS FITTED FROM £75 01902 858191 01384 429<u>1</u>66 01543 439095 01922 716029 07833 738857 VISA Massiliano Checkstrade

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED



I get from my Classified Advertising Contract

For great business 01902 319 191

Brought to you by Express & Star

alarms/security

PREMIER ALARMS

Servicing and Repairs 12 Months Warranty All areas covered All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

All aspects of building work ensions, loft conversions, roofing, driveways & landscaping.

Discounts offered.

building supplies

QUALITY DOORS AND HARD WOOD FLOORING @ low prices Call Appold Layer 0121 533 5428

PORTWAY SPECIAL OFFER

Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm
Sat 8am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury

CHOOSE



"I am extremely happy with the service I get from my Express & Star Classified Sales Representative and I would recommend them

> Michael -Portway Fencing

For great business results call 01902 319 191

gardening services

GREENALY

Fencing Decking DBS Slabing Turfing Checker 07956 584523 • 0121 550 1712

GARDENS TIDIED fr garden. 25 years experience. Call 01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

MAC GARDENING

All garden work and maintenance, lawn mowing, hedges trimmed, 0121 4060976 07525 0769 52

gas fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED

To check that anyone carrying out any Gas work is Gas Safe Registered. It is an offence under the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1998 to carry out gas work in the UK without being on the Gas Safe Register.

house clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid ments. Also removals underta 07852 172641 / 07710 360327

plastering

M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING Services. Home/Garden Improve

STEVES PLASTERING SERVICE Undertaken, All Areas. Call 0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

removals

KT HOUSE REMOVALS

07771 727119

roofing

MG ROOFING Flat roofs, tiling, roof repairs, fascias and gutters. Cal 01902 238989 / 07580 465449.

rubbish removal

LETS TALK RUBBISH No Skips Needed,Load/Remove any Waste.

MIT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE

All size skips and all areas covere

t.v. / home entertainment

service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc, CCTV cameras supplied & fitted / TV Hepairs, Plasma, LED etc. TV cameras supplied & fitted. r area. Free Estimates. 7 days. ital aerials, Sky installation. Wal unts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

> Pets & Animals

corner

guns & dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

NOTICE TO READERS

purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

'Ithian that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

PEDIGREE Golden Labrador Puppies, 3 girls, £300 each. 07938 598881.

WESTIE X POODLE Puppies, parents can be seen, £175. 01902 656216 after 5pm.



ROOMS NETHERTON Refurbished with Parking, £80 pwk Single, £90 Double inc. bills. No DSS. 07970171139 or 07940116130.

flats for sale

TWO BEDROOM GROUND FLOOR APARTMENT In Penn Village. Lovely condition with rear back

NOTICE TO READERS Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY For items upto £250. Online at bookanad. expressandstar.co.uk

Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish

Houses / Land Required

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154 Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049 Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901

www.homecashbuyer.co.uk Need to sell vour home fast?

We can help you

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Purchase Agreed Withi

DAYS

LOCAL COMPANY MARION | PROPERTY SOLUTIONS

0121 405 0797 OUR LINES ARE OPEN 24/7

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

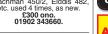
"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

ClassifiedAds
Brought to you by Express & Star

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW

ABBEY VOGUE GTS 215 2006, two berth, excellent condition, porch awning, and everything to hook up and go, illness forces sale,

Please Call



COSALT RESORT STATIC

07801 530894

FLEETWOOD COLCHESTER



38ft x 12ft

Four berth DG, CH.

Large decking, full spec.

Beach location, Borth.

IST TO SEE WILL BUY

TWO BED STATIC CARAVAN

Just been re upholstered decking front and back,

TWO BERTH CARAVAN
ABI JUBILEE
1990, Shower, toilet, heater,
fridge, radio, water and waste
water carriers, awning, 240 12v
lead, clean condition.
£650.
01922 477566.

caravans wanted

sports & leisure

caravan parks

self catering holidays

Self Catering Holiday

Pet Friendly 01278 794111

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST CCTV cameras fitted/tv wallmount, free quote/any area. 07850 330251 Can deliver. 07392 963517.

"I am very pleased with the response

Steve -AA Digital Aerials

ClassifiedAds

upplied and Fitted £195

building services DAVIES & SON BUILDERS

fencina



CALL DEAN NOW: For all your Removal needs. 07429 453209, 01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

skip hire

07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 5



to anyone!"

ClassifiedAds

pets corner

accommodation to let

NOTICE TO READERS
Readers are advised to seek independent legal advice before entering into any financial commitments/contracts. NOTICE TO READERS

NOTICE TO READERS
It is an offence under the Accommodation Agencies Act 1953, for and the registration of your requirements and/or supplying particulars of premises to let.

BEDSIT self contained room with kitchen, unturnished, suit single kitchen, unturnished, suit single area, References required. Non smoker, 07488 379419.

FEMALE REQUIRED To share losses to town centre, all facilities, some of the content of the content

Property

NICE 3-BED Bloxwich, off roac parking, available June 1, no DSS £575pcm. 07447 941229.

garden. £112,000 ono. 01902 331155.

reeAds

COMPLETE ON DATE TO SUIT make a fresh start



BRDD

ALL READERS are advised to check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies have the required Passport infor-mation

Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with it's Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

business opportunities

properties wanted

£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

you can clear your debts and make a fresh start

WHY NOT CALL US TODAY



01902 319 191

CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

> "We have been advertising in the Express & Star and Chronicles for over 20 years and consider it a key part of our business ey part of our busine with the regular flow of calls, which our advertising generates.

ClassifiedAds

WE OFFER **£20** .000 CASH ADVANC

NO Fees & FREE Solicitors We Buy Any Area & Any Condition www.ukfastsale.co.uk

Tobs

employment wanted

EXPERIENCED Bricklayer requires full time employment.
Contact 07341 021774.

RETIRED TIME SERVED CARPENTER / JOINER Requires casual / part time work. Own van / tools.

Telephone 01384 375672 or 07527 360303.

8 Motoring

cars under £1500

04 plate. red, 97K, manual, petrol, MoT October 2017.

good condition. £1,150 ono 07931 809992

委



IAM: 17-18 JULY & 30 NOV.-1 DEC. WOLVERHAMPTON: 16-17 SEPT. TELFORD: 20-21 MAY & 23-24 OCTOBER

Learn how to take blood TRAIN AS A PHLEBOTOMIST

NATIONALLY RECOGNISED AND ACCREDITED Introduction to Phlebotomy

TWO DAY COURSE - National UK Qualification NO PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

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Express & Star

10DS.expressandstar.com

MUST BE SEEN CHRYSLER SEBRING 2.4

57 plate, MoT.

Electric windows and seats

CD player, Air con.

£700 ono. 07969 193128.

WILL BUY

CITROEN PICASSO

63,000 miles, 03 plate, diesel

£595. 07989 242850.

LOOK

FIAT PANDA

06 reg, very good condition, excellent runner, new clutch, new brakes, new discs with a long MoT.

Telephone 07810 590427.

EXCELLENT CONDITION

FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE

2006, silver, 5dr hatchback, 11 months MoT, alloy wheels, heated front windscreen, front electric windows.

£900 ono.

07817 580305.



FORD FIESTA

2005, 70,000 miles, silver, 3 door Style Climate, Cat D, 11 months MoT, been in the same family 10 years, very good condition. Cannock area.

£799 ono. 07971 034838



FORD KA

2008, 08 Reg, 73,000 miles, MoT March 2018, service history, metallic lilac, stereo, power steering, cat D in 2009, clean, drives well, open to offers £795 ono



07 reg, full MoT, service history new tyres, electric windows pas, 1 owner, lovely car,

£695. 07791 113080

FOR A QUICK SALE

FORD MONDEO 2.0D 53 plate, MoT Jan 2018, all electric, metallic, pas, a/c, climate control, CD player, good condition.

£550 ono. Telephone 07888 831061.

FOR A QUICK SALE

MINI ONE 03 reg, full MoT, FSH,

1 owner. excellent condition.

black

£875 07848 820177.



MERCEDES CLK320 AUTO SPORT COUPE

1998.

good condition leather trim,

MoT, drives nicely £1,200 07462 766144.

BARGAIN

NISSAN MICRA 1.0

02 plate, good runner. low mileage, low insurance MoT till September 2017,

average condition for age £450 ono 07968 312921.



NISSAN PRIMERA 2.2 DCi TD DIESEL

2003, long MoT, good, reliable runner, 6 speed box, reversing camera etc, PAS, CD, Sat Nav etc.

£525 ono 07486 635378.



PEUGEOT 107 URBAN

2011, 16,517 miles, black, abs electric windows, air bag, 12 months MoT, metallic paint, central locking, one owner, pas, £20 tax, stereo, CD.

£3,300 ono 07708 689931

TOYOTA AYGO

5-dr Sport, 55 rea.

Family owned from new,

genuine low miles,

MoT March 2018 new Clutch, new tyres,

paintwork needs attention

Hence £1,350. 07913 047367. Codsall.



VOLKSWAGEN POLO

2003(53), 1.2 Twist, 70,170 miles, 5 door, silver, electric windows, air bag, air con, fsh, MoT, one owner, pas.

07549 225699.

GOOD RUNNER

VW BEETLE 1600cc, Y reg, petrol, 5 months MoT,

> £600 ono. 07851 166432.

MUST BE SEEN

VW GOLF 1.6 MK4

S Reg, collectable 10 months MoT. £350 o.n.o. 07521 411373

DIESEL

VW PASSAT ESTATE DIESEL 1.9 TDi AUTO. 2005, 142K, fully loaded £895

Genuine callers only please. Telephone 07850 330251



2006, 54,000 miles, 1,2 SXI+ black, abs, electric windows, air bag, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys.

> £1,450 ono 07568 519486

IST TO SEE WILL BUY VAUXHALL CORSA SXI 1.2

3 door, 52 reg. Silver.

Only 65k. 12 months MoT.

Stunning condition

Only £795. Telephone 07840 175237.

cars over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your adve tisement today? We would respect-fully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inac-curacies on the first day of publica-tion.



2012, new shape, grey, nev engine and turbo 23,000 miles ago cost £6k with invoice heated leather, 131k with fish, looks and drives lovely, HPI clear, lots of extras.

€8.795

01902 471221/07517 318131

BARGAIN

CITROEN C1

11 rea..

low insurance.

beauitful condition.

£1.595

07498 330674.

DIESEL FORD SMAX 2.0TDCi TITANIUM

150PS 2007 12 months MoT 135k, central locking, CD player, air con, abs, pas, alloy wheels, good condition.

£3.000 ono.

Telephone 07973 152480

LOOK

HYUNDAI MATRIX 1.6GSi

5dr, silver, 04/2004 reg, 93k, roof rails, alloys, full MoT, looks and drives well, £495.

07399 612471.



2003/04, 11 months MoT, 108,000 only, red with white roof, petrol, EW, EDM, electric heated seats, Kenwood 7 stack stereo, just had new brakes and discs all round, drives nice. Test drive - you will love it!.

£2,500

07946 383970

IMMACULATE

RENAULT CLIO

2006, auto, 23,000 miles, FSH, full sunroof, alloy wheels, 10 months MoT, one owner, immaculate.

07507 765451.



RENAULT CLIO FREEWAY 2008, 47,000 miles, abs, fsh, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, 1149cc.

07879 403302

MUST BE SEEN

SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDi
Sdr, silver, 2011, immaculate
condition, very economical, low
mileage 49,500, long MoT,
next due 14.03.18, FSH, last
serviced 27.03.17, discs and
pads changed at last service
well maintained, has history of
being serviced by Skoda
technicians, cam belf, changed
at 33.000 miles (have invoices),
2 keys, alarm, £20 per year road
tax.

£4,500. 07817 073369.

LOOK

1.4 SXi 09 reg, 59k, MoT, very good condition, lady owner,

07572 367349

VW GOLF

01562 829474

classic cars

WANTED, CLASSIC Car. Private

commercial vehicles

red, 2007, diesel, MoT,

0121 532 9827.

Swb, diesel Van, 2008. 157,446 miles, 12 months MoT, excellent condition,

£4,400.

motorbikes

WILL BUY

1965, 125cc

£5,750. 07710 700187.

Suzuki SV650S Sport. New

chain and sprockets. Two new tyres. Dalmec exhaust. 9,700 miles. Excellent runner.

01902 662339

£2,600



£1.799.

SKODA FABIA 1.6 TDi

VAUXHALL CORSA

£2 400 ono

LOOK

1996, 115,000 miles, green long MoT.

considered. 01630 652993 or 07773 462797.

LDV CREW CAR

82k miles, reliable. £1.600.

VAUXHALL VIVARO SPORTIVE CDTI

07940 211095

LAMBRETTA SCOOTER



£2,500 ono

WANTED Honda CB Four upto 750cc or Kawasaki KH500 for restoration. 07847 917651.

scrap vehicles

OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

ABC AUTO SALVAGE
WANTED URGENT
Scrap & MOT Failures Best
Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
0121 557 0800 or
0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

vehicles wanted

alan reed cars Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled

07831 245313 CROWN MOTORS guarantee price for your unwanted cars/07903 549849, buyer will call.

spares & accessories

tyres / wheels / exhausts MERCEDES B CLASS Set of wheels and tyres, 2 new ones £130, 01384 295753.



public & legal notices FLORENCE NOEL

(Deceased) Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of 17 Hurst Green Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B62 9PS, who died on 4108/1996, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 270/2017, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

Thursfields Solicitors, Hyefield House, 36 Hagley Road, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 4RH. Ref: ARW/N01813/0001

Attn: Abigail Wells

BETTY GOODSY

Occessed:

Pursuant to the Trisslee Act 1925 any persons
having a claim against or an interest in
the Estate of the allorementioned decessed,
also of 10 King Street Cradley Health West
are required to send particulars thereof in
writing to the undersigned on or before
21/107/2017, after which date the Estate will be
ritinetess of writing they have had notice, and
interests of writin they have had notice.
CO-OP LEGAL SERVICES LIMITED

Actics GSO Actics West BETTY GOODBY

c 650 Aztec West ndsbury Bristol BS32 4SD HOP/4007085P/Goodby)

ROY HARPER ROY HARPER (Deceased) The Decease of the Decease of

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES
For convenience you
may fax any advertising
requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 7131466
expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a
name/contact number for
confirmation of receipt)

Personals

personal

GENTLEMAN 83 YEARS YOUNG

1.75m tall, slim, strong, fit and very healthy, good company, well travelled, humerous, gentle

and giving and giving.

Would like to find a lady companion who would be whatever age, slim, smart, outgoing who wishes to partake in the better things in life and travel.

length photo possible/returned. Box Number P20797.



Express and Star, Queen Street,

Divorced, with youthful outlook and GSOH, seeks similar in Wolverhampton area for Friendship, outings and holidays.

Varied interests including music, theatre and visiting places of interest. Box Number P20801 . Express and Star. Queen Street,

Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

sports clubs

WITHYMOOR COLTS F.C. Status Club.

Status Club.
All Managers minimum
FA Level 1 and CRC Checked.
U13's B0YS
(Gloing under 14's)
Require players, current school
year 8.
Call Dave 07811 154631.
NEW UNDER 10'S GIRLS
TEAM 2017/18 Season
Require players, current school

TEAM 2017/18 Season
Require players, current school
year 6.
Call Ryan 07450 590212.
UNDER 16'S GRILS.
(Going under 17/18'S)
Require players, current school
year 11,
Call Sean 07935 464079.



EXCHANGE WANTED Two bedroom bungalow (semi)

Staffs Association In Great Wyrley, for same in

Housing

Tettenhall, Perton, Merryhill and surrounding areas. 01922 411069. HARLEQUIN PANTOMIMES

HARLEQUIN PANTOMIMES
January 2018
Little Red Riding Hood
at Perton Civic Centre, W-ton.
This award winning pantomime
company have a limited number
of vacancies for young adults
(14 years plus) good quality
dancers both male and female,
also people with good vocal and
acting skills are required.
Auditions at
St Paul's Church, Pendeford,
Wolverhampton, WY9 SMR
Commencing at 7.30pm.
Wed, May 24, 2017.
Telephone 07966 6866932.

UY LOCAL 01902 317878

Wed, May 24, 2017. Telephone 07966 686932. For further information and register.



Pick-up doubles up as a 'crossover'

By Sharon Walters

Pick-ups have come a long way in the past few years.

From workhorse vehicles that were merely functional inside and equipped with just the basics for driver and passenger comfort – seats! – to ones that now can include superb music systems. Bluetooth phone integration, reversing cameras, air conditioning, everyway adjustable seats, cool boxes to chill your water, cubby holes galore to keep the cabin tidy – in fact just about everything you could find in an upmarket passenger car and one which you can use to transport the family around in as well as haul loads.

And so we come to today's multi-award winning Nissan Navara, a pick-up renowned for its range of powerful but at the same efficient engines, great comfort, a 3.5 tonne towing ability and a range of trim levels to suit needs and pockets. Plus it has a comprehensive five-year/100,000 miles warranty.

In its trophy cabinet are top honours including Best Pick-Up from Fleet World, Pick-Up of the Year from What Van? and International Pick-Up.

Navara's leading features include multi-

Navara's leading features include multilink rear suspension, forward emergency braking and around view monitor. Many safety features are available across the range including Forward Emergency Braking on all double cab models; driver, passenger, side, knee and curtain airbags; electronic Limited Slip Differential (el.SD); Hill Start Assist and Hill Descent Control (on 4WD models). Priced from £23,520, it can be specified with

Priced from £23,520, it can be specified with either a double cab or a king cab and a 190PS twin-turbo or 160PS single turbo version of the 2.3-litre dCi engine.

There's also a choice of two or four-wheel



Change from two to four-wheel drive by flicking a switch



The Navara has a 3.5 tonne towing ability

drive and a 6-speed manual or 7-speed automatic transmission. I recently tested the 2.3 dCi in Tekna trim

I recently tested the 2.3 dCi in Tekna trim with double cab and put a fair few miles on the clock including packing the load area with the results of a massive clear-out of my attic – well you have to do it when you have the wheels to get to the tip!

It is indeed very comfortable inside with easy to use Sat Nav and an entertainment system with a high resolution 7 inch touchscreen, DAB radio, colour reversing camera, Smartphone app integration, Bluetooth audio streaming and traffic updates Also included in the package are an eight-way adjusting driver's seat, four-way adjustable passneger seat, electric folding mirrors, around view monitor (useful on such a large beats when manoeuvering), cruise control and a whole lot more. That comes with a price

of £31,590 and, in my opinion, a fair one. And the finish is not at all 'commercial'. It is well-built and, believe it or not, attractive for a

on, Apart from the difficulty of climbing in at 44.9 on com fic updates. only five feet four in height, the Navara is easy usual I didn't

to drive and made easier with that all round monitor and rear parking sensors. For all its substantial size the Navara gave a smoother ride than you would expect from such a beast, and was no slouch in getting off the mark at lights and cruising along the motorway where it felt stable and secure at maximum permitted speed . . . And on top of that you didn't watch the fuel gauge rapidly descend. Claimed official figures are 47.1mpg in an urban cycle,

44.9 on combined and 47.1 on extra urban. As usual I didn't achieve those figures (you rarely can!) but I was not disappointed in my actual fuel consumption.

There was no real off-roading for me but just a trip on a forest road where it was simple to change from two to four-wheel drive in hi-or low via a switch on the dash.

This is a good choice for doing day-to-day 'work' as a haulier but works well as a familyfriendly vehicle that is flexible and also has the comfort of an SUV.

MNA



4

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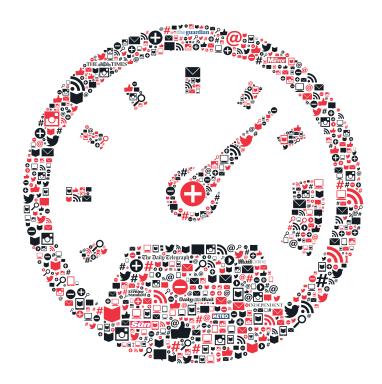






CHANGE UP A GEAR WITH MOTORING

Express & Star



How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarketing recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail Automotive Finance
2.8x 1.7x 5.7x

So, whatever the size your business or budget, get motoring into newspapers.

For the full story and more details: newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness









Action from the motocross event at Lower Drayton Farm, Penkridge



s battle it out on one of the corners during the AMCA British Motocross Championship

This rider leaves a trail on his way round the circuit at Lower Drayton Farm, near Penkridge

Burton tops the charts as event proves real hit

CANNOCK rider Luke Burton extended his lead at the top of the AMCA British Motocross Championship with a clean

sweep at Lower Drayton Farm.
The defending MX1 champion won all three races as the series visited the course near Penkridge, extending his lead at the top of the stand-

ings to 89 points.
Burton, who races for the Husqvarna team on a licence supplied by Cannock Motorcycle Club, was further aided by the mechanical problems which blighted Gary Gibson and Shane Carless, two of his main title rivals. That allowed his Husqvarna team-mate James Dodd to claim second place on the day, with Richard Cannings, another rider who races on a Cannock licence, back in third.

Challenge

More than 800 spectators turned out over the course to watch some of the country's best motocross riders in an event organised by Cannock MCC.
"Everything went according to plan," said club chairman Phil Bailey. "A lot of hard work went in from our members to make the event a success. In addition to the recircum we also had a margue with a light band."

our members to make the event a success. In addition to the racing we also had a marquee with a live band." After having two, dry, hard-pack circuits to open the 2017 series, the Lower Drayton surface, with its mixture of soil and high percentage wood chip, provided a whole different challenge to riders.

Yet the races ultimately delivered some very familiar results in the MX1 category, with Burton winning the first after battling past Gibson in the opening laps. Carless moved through the field to take second from Gibson, with Dodd third.

The second and third races were even more emphatic for Burton, who led from start to finish in both. But there was trouble for Carless, who saw his frame break

SPORTING FEATURE

while in fifth spot during race two. Cannings moved up to take third and then went one better with second place in race three behind his fellow Cannock rider. Kinver Motorcycle Club's Luke Dean has slipped back to second in the MX2 standings. Dean enjoyed a strong start to the day with second place in the opening race but subsequent eighth and fourth-placed finishes in races two and three saw him lose his lead at the top of the standings to Dursley's Josh Waterman.

Teme Valley's Ray Rowson took victory in the opening two races and looked on course for the hat-trick before Waterman, the defending champion, reeled him in over

Teme Valley's Ray Rowson took victory in the opening two races and looked on course for the hat-trick before Waterman, the defending champion, reeled him in over the closing laps of the final contest.

Kinver's Lewis King is third in the overall standings after a consistent day which saw him follow up fifth in the day's opening race with second and third. Warley MCC's Jason Kendrick endured a miserable day in the 2T series, scoring just 68 points to fall from first to fifth in the overall standings.

Dursley's Brad Turner was the man to take advantage, reclaiming top spot thanks to a hat-trick of wins. Cannock's Jordan Saunders was seventh overall on the day. The trio of James Russell, Simon Lane and Terry House again dominated proceedings in the Vets, with Russell now enjoying a 22-point advantage at the top of the AMCA Championship standings.

Russell resisted pressure from his two main rivals to claim a hat-trick of victories on the day, passing Lane late on in both races two and three. Kinver's Richard Chinn was fifth overall on the day. The farm will next host a Cannock MCC meeting on Sunday, with international events planned for June and July.

Poundland in Epsom hill sponsorship deal

BUDGET retailer Poundland has announced it will sponsor a section of the Epsom Derby for the next 10 years. The Willenhall-based company has agreed a deal with racecourse bosses which will see the famous hill in the middle of the track rebranded Poundland Hill.

The popular area of the course, which is free to the public and has in years The popular area of the course, which is free to the public and has in years gone by attracted thousands of racegoers, will be known under that moniker at the Investee-sponsored two-day meeting, which takes place on June 2 and 3. Phil White, who is responsible for Epsom in his role as Jockey Club London regional director, said: "We're looking to build and remivigorate the hill and having a partner to work alongside us represents a great opportunity. "The Derby Festival attracts such a wide range of society and that's what makes it unique. It's known as the people's race and the activities and all the people who go on to the hill is one of the reasons for that. "The hill is unique, and having a high street retailer like Poundland associated with it can only be good for its long-term growth." Poundland trading director Barry Williams said: "All of Britain loves the Derby. As the people's store, we're looking forward to helping make the people's hill at Epsom one of the best ways to experience the Derby at Epsom."

Golf pairs tee off for final at Belfry

TWO Penn Golf Club pairings have qualified for the national final of the American Golf Senior Championship.

Ken Smith from Sedgley and Steve Banks from Wombourne carded 45 points at the regional qualifying event at their home course and took the honours by a solitary point from fellow Penn duo Gill Meek and Jo Hall.

Both pairs will now join qualifiers from all over the UK and Ireland in front of Sky Sports' cameras at The Belfry, on September 7 and 8. They will compete over two days for the chance to be crowned American Golf Senior Champions and to be in contention for the Tournament of Champions in Mauritius.

Meek, from Kingswinford and Hall from Sedgley are the only female pairing to qualify for the finals.

"Our Championship events have proven incredibly popular over recent years," said Daniel Gathercole, director of marketing and communication at American Golf. "We can't wait to welcome all our qualifiers to the Belfry to have a great time and

welcome all our qualifiers to the Belfry to have a great time and do battle for the title."

Firm cheques in to offer Strollers help

A MANUFACTURING company has lent its support to Dudley walking foot-

A MARGEACT CHING company has left its support to Dudiey warking football club Hartshill Strollers.

Club member Archie Jones, a sales engineer for Waterfit, part of Thomas Dudley Ltd, handed over a cheque for £250 to club chairman, Mark Grazier.

Archie said: "As a local manufacturing company, Thomas Dudley Ltd. prides itself on being part of the community. By supporting Hartshill Strollers, the firm is showing its commitment to that goal."

Hartshill Strollers – founded nearly three years ago - play at Summerhill

School, Kingswinford.

The club has grown from just four members to more than 50 – aged from

Thomas Dudley Ltd is known to have been highly impressed with the Stroll-

ers' victory in the finals of the Walking Football United Over 60s National Tournament in November 2016 – the sport's equivalent of the FA Cup. Mark Grazier said: "Hartshill Strollers is almost entirely self-financing. So we are extremely grateful for the generous donation from Thomas Dudley Ltd.

"I hope this will be the start of a continuing association between the club and the company."



Motocross rider ensures rivals gone for a Burton

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Ayres says confidence is growing

CRADLEY hero Danny Ayres wants the sweet taste of success more than ever. Ayres has rattled up two maximums in Heathens colours in recent meetings – and he's also piled up the points in the Premiership with Leicester.

Now he wants more of the same, starting on the Isle of Wight tonight (Thursday) and at Buxton on Sunday.

ing on the Isle of Wight tonight (Thursday) and at Buxton on Sunday.

Heathens are on the road before heading back to Wolverhampton on May 29 against Belle Vue in a tough Bank Holiday clash.

"It was always going to be difficult going to Cradley after the meeting at Rye House for Leicester on the last Bank Holiday," said Ayres. "The high I had was so immense, I felt physically drained and a bit ill going into that one. "Sadly, we couldn't ouite put it to-

"Sadly, we couldn't quite put it to-gether for the maximum but it has really

"Sadly, we couldn't quite put it together for the maximum but it has really come together for the maximum but it has really come together for me in this league in recent weeks.
"I am growing in confidence and here to take the National League over and will keep doing everything in my power to achieve that.
"You can't be too hard on yourself but if I wasn't disappointed with that then I'd give up. People tell me to be positive and I am but I am also a racer and I don't like being beaten. The day that feeling goes, that I am happy to settle for anything less, is the time to stop. I am always hungry for this.

"I have put so much into this so when it doesn't go quite right, I beat myself up. I go home, analyse things and come back stronger."

Ayres had a mixed night for Heathens in a 46-43 challenge defeat at Leicester. He won heat four despite losing his saddle but, after scoring eight from three outings, locked up during heat 13 and missed two minutes due to a mechanical fault in heat 15.

Captain heads up quartet of Midland swimming champs

CAPTAIN Josh Bradley led the way as four Halesowen swimmers became West Midland champions. Fifteen club mem-

Midland champions. Fifteen club members competed in the prestigious championships in Coventry, with challenging qualifying times needed just to attend.

Bradley claimed gold in both 17 and over 50m breaststroke and 50m butterfly, Ryan Larkin won the 16 and under 50m breaststroke, while Jack Simpson and Rob Jennings both won the 50m and 100m freestyle in the 16 and under and 15 and under respectively.

There were also podium finishes for Emma Bird, Olivia Jay and James Cuthbert. In total the club won six bronze, five silver and seven golds.

After these heroics, the club came back to earth with a bump. Competing in round 2 of Nuneaton Junior league in Stafford, Halesowen came a disappoint.

Stafford, Halesowen came a disappointing sixth. There were some personal bests on the evening but only one event winner. In only her second gala for the club, Grace Guy swam superbly to win the nine and under 25m backstroke.

Final scores were Northampton A 247, Stafford Apex 185, Solihull 179, Orion 169, Stratford Sharks 149, Halesowen 127.

Welborn has full backing of sponsor

VEGAS TARGET

FOR SUPER SAM



Welborn, right, with sponsor Dean Hiscox

didn't care about winning ugly after he became European welterweight champion with a knockout of Spanish fighter Ceferino Rodriguez in Birming-

ham on Saturday.
The 23-year-old from Stourbridge could be off to Las Vegas to fight Dan-

could be off to Las Vegas to fight Danny Garcia this year, if mentor Barry Hearn gets his way.

Eggington, who had previously stopped Frankie Gavin and Paulie Malignaggi, sent defending champ Rodriguez through the ropes in the 10th round after landing two left hooks.

Afterwards, Hearn said: "I want a European defence in maybe September and then Danny Garcia in Vegas with him after that.

"If not we'll fight any other welterweight world champion. But there's no rush because Sam's 23

"If not we'll fight any other welterweight world champion. But there's no rush because Sam's 23 and he's going to be around for years."

The fight swung in favour of Eggington (21-3) after he emerged stronger from a chaotic exchange in the seventh round.

Rodriguez (24-2) had previously won fights abroad in Argentina, Italy and the USA and boasted former world champion Sergio Martinez.

Eggington, who had previously stopped Frankie Gavin and Paulie Malignaggi, first made his mark as the opening round ended before body shots caused Rodriguez's legs to dip in pain.

A wild brawl in the seventh round clearly suited Eggington. He shoved the champion onto the ropes, unloading every punch in his arsenal, and although Rodriguez teetered across the ring he survived the onslaught.

Each fighter landed hurtful right hands in the

eighth and ninth rounds. By the 10th, Eggington's power and strength brought victory.

iard's best moment.

JASON Welborn is good to go for more titles when he gets his next ring date after his sponsor agreed to back him as a full-time fighter.

Operations director Dean His-Operations director Dean His-cox, himself an ex-pro fighter, employs Welborn at Daneways Surfacing & Construction Con-tractors, of Peartree Lane, Dud-ley, and is his main sponsor. They have agreed that Wel-born will be exempt from work to undertake a proper training

other big contest comes in. The 30-year-old, from Rowley Regis, is a wanted man again after becoming WBC International champion up at middleweight, with the scalp of Marcus Morrison

It was a night to remember for Welborn, who also has been a two-weight area titlist with a reign at super welter and won a Midlands welter belt outright.

British nonours and a WBC International crown, outpointed for the latter by three-time world title challenger Matthew Macklin. They have now joined forces, with Welborn signing up to Macklin's MTK Birmingham stable and the two are now focused on more glory.

or Welborn, who also has been two-weight area titlist with a eign at super welter and won a fidlands welter belt outright.

He has twice challenged for

Rivals easily chase down meagre tally

FORDHOUSES still had 22 overs to spare as they defeated Halesowen by seven wickets in the Birmingham League last weekend.

Having won the toss and elected to bat on a blameless surface the home team

on a planneress surface the home team were soon in trouble as key batsmen Kilbee and Harris were dismissed for cheaply. Only Tom Williams (29), Wes Griffiths (22) and Hassan Quami (22) showed any steel with bat but ultimately a meagre score of 105 was never going to be enough and bigger partnerships were be enough and bigger partnerships were needed to test the recently promoted opposition

Fordhouses quickly chased it down in 28 overs with only captain Richard Brooker (2-20) showing any form with the ball. It means Halesowen have lost

the ball. It means Halesowen have lost their opening three games and are bot-tom of the second division. Brooker said: "Three out of three losses is not the way to go on and we simply have to apply ourselves more with the bat." Meanwhile the 2nd XI blew away highly fancied Knowle & Dorridge. Hav-ing way the toes and bowled first Hale.

ing won the toss and bowled first Halesowen bowled out the home for 110. In reply Roberson (54*) and S Jones (35*) knocked off the runs to win by 10 wick-

ets.

In the 3rd XI only captain Carl Bust shone with the ball (5-74) as Hanley racked up 276 and knocked over Halesowen for just 137 resulting in a 129 run loss. The only contribution of note was 42 from the consistent Luke Miley.

The 4ths suffered defeat, falling just three runs short chasing 177 against

three runs short chasing 177 against

Avoncroft.

On Saturda, the first XI visits
Oswestry, noon start; the 2nd XI welcome Leamington to Seth Somers Park
(12.30pm), Stourport 3rds are the visitors to Earls High School (1.30pm) and
the fourths visit Stourport (1pm).

Silvers and golds for **Black Country Triathletes**

BLACK Country Triathletes were among those taking part in the annual club Junior Duathlon held at Stourport cycle track.

cycle track.

In the Tristart category, Dylan Williams took silver in his first race, Alex Westbury took silver and Abi Hathaway bronze at TS2 and in the Youth category Lydia Silk took silver and Oliver Mason

Lydia Silk took silver and Oliver Mason bronze. For the adults, Gary Bonner finished seventh overall and third male super yet in the Worcester Sprint Tri. At Highley BCT took gold and silver with Ben Monkton finishing first overall and Paul Rogers, only 30 seconds behind him in second place.

CYCLING The recycled

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f newspapers 2015 was 71%



Kitted out after competition win



Jamie Beddall and Rowley United under-14s with Mike Williamson of Wolves at Molineux

Southpaw Rodriguez was technically adept and remained a threat. His jab was fast, then he effectively switched to southpaw to confuse Eggington. There was a noticeable mark underneath Eggington's right eye in the fifth, his hands dropped and Rodriguez made him pay. It was the Spanisard's heat moment. A YOUNG football team hit the back of the

A YOUNG football team hit the back of the net after winning a new set of kits – and met a Wolves star as part of a tour at Molineux.

Rowley United under-14s bagged a fresh blue and white Mitre strip, and training equipment, after being selected as the local winners of an English Football League competition, in conjunction with DIY trade store Wickes.

And as part of their prize, they got to meet Wolves centre-back Mike Williamson.

He said: "It means a lot to the lads – they feel the part. The experience as well, listening to their conversations they were talking about all

their conversations they were talking about all the potential players that have come out here at Molineux and the crowd and things like that.

"It may light a bit of a fire in some of them, and push them that extra few steps. That's the best thing about football, it's a working class sport – there is no limits, anyone can play and get to any level."

The 'Kits for Kids' initiative invited junior sides to share their stories with Wickes in order to be in with a chance of winning, with '72 sets of brand new Mitre kit – in connection with each EFL club – being handed out.

United compete in the Division Two of the Stourbridge Youth League, and have consolidated following promotion last season.

dated following promotion last season.

Manager Dan Mandley said: "It's a fantastic looking kit so the lads are chuffed."



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